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Japan

UN Official Urges Joining 'Soft' Peace Efforts

OW2310122890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1205 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] New York, Oct. 23 KYODO—Yasushi Akashi, undersecretary general of the United Nations, says Japan should promote nonmilitary cooperation with U.N.-led peacekeeping operations as a part of its contribution toward settlement of the Persian Gulf crisis.

Akashi, who is in charge of disarmament affairs and is the top Japanese official at the U.N., told KYODO NEWS SERVICE on Tuesday that Japan should join in "soft" U.N. peace efforts based on Article Six of the U.N. Charter, which stipulates peaceful settlement of disputes.

U.N. peacekeeping operations include overseeing the withdrawal of troops from disputed areas and monitoring ceasefires, Akashi said. He said Japan could cooperate with such U.N. activities without creating a split in public opinion as seen in the current Diet debate on the government's controversial U.N. peace cooperation bill.

The U.N. has engaged in peacekeeping operations in the Middle East, the Congo, and Cyprus, among other areas.

Akashi added, "It is also important for Japan to dispatch personnel to the Persian Gulf region. Japan should take it to heart that merely a financial contribution is no good."

However, Akashi refrained from commenting on Japan's proposed "U.N. Peace Cooperation Corps," which would be mainly made up of Self-Defense Forces personnel, citing his status as an international official.

The undersecretary general said the effectiveness of collective security, based on Article Seven of the U.N. Charter (covering military action against acts of aggression), has been called into question in the wake of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. He said it has become possible for the first time to implement collective security with the concerted action between the United States and the Soviet Union since the end of the cold war.

Akashi said Japan has to consider how to cooperate with such "hard" peace efforts in the long term. But Akashi said there is little possibility that U.N. forces will be set up in the near future under Article Seven.

Proposed Cooperation Corps To Transport Arms

OW2410123590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1204 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 24 KYODO—The proposed Japanese U.N. peace cooperation corps would be able to transport weapons and ammunition as part of its contribution to helping U.S. and other multinational forces massed in the Persian Gulf area, government officials said Wednesday.

Shunji Yanai, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Treaties Bureau, told a parliamentary committee session that there is no legal restriction on goods to be carried by the U.N. peace cooperation corps.

Pressed to specify what kind of commodities the peace corps would transport, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said the team in principle would not transport weapons and ammunition to the multinational forces.

Yanai, however, said the government-proposed bill would not impose any restrictions on the commodities, including arms and ammunition, transported by the U.N. peace cooperation team.

Nakayama and Yanai were responding to Kanji Kawasaki, a Japan Socialist Party member, at a session of the House of Representatives' special committee on the United Nations peace cooperation issue.

Kawasaki's questions highlighted debate within the 50-member committee which began formal discussions Wednesday on the U.N. peace cooperation bill which would allow the sending abroad of noncombat personnel, ships, and aircraft from Japan's Self-Defense Forces to assist in international peacekeeping activities.

Kawasaki urged the government to explicitly restrict the arms carried by members of the peace cooperation team for self-defense purposes.

Yanai said the peace corps would not transport weapons and ammunition if such transportation is directly connected to the use of force.

As Kawasaki pointed out disparities in the government position, Nakayama replied that the Japanese peace team would not transport arms and ammunitions to frontline battle areas.

Kawasaki, expressing dissatisfaction with government answers, reserved to ask further questions on the matter. Both the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and opposition parties agreed to handle the matter backstage.

Under article 3 of the bill, the U.N. peace cooperation team would engage in such noncombat peacekeeping activities abroad as surveillance of ceasefires, management of elections, medical services, and transportation and communications.

The bill is aimed at creating the U.N. Peace Cooperation Corps, including members of the Self-Defense Forces, to aid international peacekeeping operations led by the United Nations.

Kawasaki posed questions on links between the proposed bill and the existing SDF Law, saying the proposed bill only stipulates that "small arms" may be lent to members of the corps while Article 87 of the SDF Law says SDF personnel can carry arms necessary to fulfill their missions.

Kazuo Fujii, director general of the Defense Agency's Defense Policy Bureau, said the SDF thinks handguns, rifles, machine guns, and shotguns are "small arms."

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said the government intends to lend only handguns and rifles to U.N. peace cooperation corps members for self-protection.

Fujii said handguns, rifles, machine guns, and shotguns are loaded with SDF supply ships.

Kaifu said the government will study how to place legal limits on arms carried by the U.N. peace cooperation corps, including SDF personnel participating in the team.

Yuichi Ichikawa, secretary general of Komeito, the second-largest opposition party, called on Kaifu to take political responsibility if the government fails to enact the law.

Kaifu, however, refused to make any clear commitment to such responsibility, saying he is determined to have the bill passed by the Diet.

The LDP holds a stable majority in the powerful 512-seat lower house, but it holds only 113 seats in the 252-member House of Councillors, 13 short of a simple majority. The bill needs to be approved by both chambers of the Diet to become law.

Earlier in the day, cabinet ministers told the same committee session that Japan would send the peace cooperation corps to the Middle East and Cambodia if the bill is enacted and if Japan is asked by the United Nations to do so.

Kaifu told the session that if the U.N. were to make a specific request to Japan and if the government judged it appropriate, the corps would be sent to the Middle East for ceasefire monitoring, as the bill stipulates such duties.

Constitutional Interpretation Revision Dropped

OW2410142590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1408 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 24 KYODO—The cabinet of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has dropped a plan to interpret afresh the war-renouncing Constitution as allowing for the dispatch abroad of Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to join United Nations forces, a top Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

Government agencies concerned have reached a consensus on the issue, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Kaifu told reporters October 15 that his cabinet is studying whether to present a new interpretation of the Constitution which the government interpreted as banning the SDF from joining U.N. forces.

Article 9 of the Constitution says, "The Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes."

During a parliamentary committee session Wednesday, the director general of the Cabinet Legislation Bureau, Atsushi Kudo, said the Constitution allows the country to possess the minimum armed potential necessary to defend itself. Kudo, responding to an opposition questioner during the session, said that if the SDF joins U.N. forces which aim to use force, it is the same as if the SDF itself resorts to force.

The Foreign Ministry official said Kudo made the reply after the government agencies concerned discussed the matter to unify the government position.

On Wednesday, the House of Representatives' special committee launched formal discussions on the government proposed United Nations peace cooperation bill which would allow the sending abroad of noncombat personnel, ships, and aircraft from the SDF and the Maritime Safety Agency to assist in international peacekeeping activities.

The bill, prepared by the Foreign Ministry following the Persian Gulf crisis, calls for establishing a U.N. Peace Cooperation Corps of between 1,000 and 2,000 members to provide "adequate and swift assistance" to "U.N. peacekeeping operations and other activities" performed in line with U.N. resolutions.

All the opposition parties, except the moderate Democratic Socialist Party, have opposed the bill, saying it violates the war-renouncing Constitution.

Tokyo To 'Act Prudently' Over Senkaku Issue

OW2310144690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1425 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 23 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu moved Tuesday to defuse a row with China and Taiwan over the sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands, saying Japan will "act prudently" over a controversial lighthouse built by a rightwing Japanese group on one of the East China Sea islets also claimed by Taiwan and China.

Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Taizo Watanabe said the Government has no plans to dispatch its Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to patrol the islands. He said the Maritime Safety Agency (MSA), Japan's coast guard, will continue to exercise jurisdiction over the territorial waters around Senkaku to prevent foreign intrusion.

Kaifu told reporters that the government will cautiously handle an application to use the lighthouse, built on Uotsurishima, the largest of the islets, as an official navigational beacon. He made the remarks after meeting with a group of pro-Taiwan Liberal Democratic Party Diet members, who urged Kaifu to deal with the matter cautiously.

The lighthouse was originally built in 1978 by the rightwing group and renovated in 1988 and again last year in order to meet lighthouse standards set by the MSA. The group applied to register the lighthouse with the MSA in August 1989.

The dispute over the islands erupted on Monday following a confrontation Sunday between MSA patrol boats and two Taiwanese fishing boats which tried to move toward the Uotsurishima.

A team of Taiwanese athletes wanted to plant an Olympic style torch on the islet as a symbol of Taipei's claim of sovereignty following news reports that the MSA was about to give official recognition to the lighthouse.

The MSA's interception of the two Taiwanese boats drew the wrath of Beijing and Taipei and sparked protests in Hong Kong. The leader of a Taiwanese opposition party reportedly announced in Taipei on Monday that he will soon send a 300-boat flotilla to the island chain, known in Chinese as the Diaoyutai Islands.

Sources said the boats may set sail on Thursday, the day which Taiwan has set aside to publicize its claims to the possibily oil-rich islands 190 kilometers northeast of Taiwan and 170 kilometers northwest of Ishigaki Island in the Ryukyu chain.

A Foreign Ministry source would not completely rule out the dispatch of the SDF to cope with the proposed Taiwanese flotilla, saying it depends on the situation.

The Japanese Government lodged a protest with Taiwan on Monday through the Japanese Interchange Association, the office it maintains in Taipei in the absence of diplomatic relations, Watanabe said.

The government's chief spokesman, Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto, reiterated Japan's claims to the chain earlier Tuesday, saying, "The Senkaku Islands belong to us. There is no change in our position."

China's official XINHUA NEWS AGENCY slammed Sakamoto's territorial claim as "arrogant" and repeated a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman's remarks Monday that China has "indisputable sovereignty" over the islands.

"It is totally unjustified for the Japanese Government to dispatch warships and airplanes to enter the sea waters (of the islands) and intercept ships from Taiwan Province," the report quoted the official as saying.

Taiwan Opposition Said To Use Senkaku Issue

OW2410134790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1238 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 24 KYODO—Taiwan's opposition party is taking advantage of a territorial dispute with Japan over the Senkaku Islands in an attempt to undermine the ruling Kuomintang, a top Japanese Government official said Wednesday.

"Taiwan's opposition party is playing up the Senkaku Islands issue because it wants to rock the authorities," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. Japan hopes to resolve the matter through discussions with Taiwan and China, the official said.

The official was responding to a reporter's question on a plan by Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party to send a 300-boat flotilla to the disputed island chain Thursday, the 45th anniversary of Japan's relinquishing of its former colony.

Japan, Taiwan, and China all claim sovereignty over the uninhabited islands, called Diaoyutai in Chinese. Oil experts believe there may be rich undersea oilfields around the islands.

The latest clash came after news reports said the Japanese Government planned to give official recognition to a beacon set up by a right-wing group on Uotsurishima, one of the eight islands in the chain.

In response, a group of Taiwanese athletes set out for the islands Sunday hoping to plant an Olympic torch as a symbol of Taiwanese sovereignty. Japan's Maritime Safety Agency refused to allow the athletes to land.

China and Taiwan protested the blockade, and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Tuesday Japan would "act prudently" on the beacon issue.

Taiwan and China cite Chinese documents dating back to the 16th century Ming dynasty and the islands' geographical location as evidence to back their claim to sovereignty. Japan says it acquired the islands when it annexed the Okinawa Archipelago in 1879.

When the United States returned Okinawa to Japanese administration in 1972, it said the Senkaku Islands were part of the archipelago but that conflicting claims over sovereignty would be a matter for resolution by the parties concerned. The U.S. military still has access to the islands which are occasionally used for aircraft target practice.

The islands are located 170 kilometers northwest of Ishigaki Island on the Ryukyu Chain and 190 kilometers northeast of Taiwan.

CSFR's Dienstbier Continues Talks, Activities

Confers With Kaifu 23 Oct

LD2310185790 Prague CTK in English 1736 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Tokyo Oct 23 (CTK)—Visiting Czechoslovak Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier discussed the situation concerning economic reform in Czechoslovakia with Japanese Premier Toshiki Kaifu here today.

The Czechoslovak minister explained the reform's legislative basis and problems caused by adverse international circumstances, inter alia oil prices increases, Czechoslovakia's joining the embargo against Iraq, the transition to freely convertible currencies and the disintegration of the market of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

Mr. Kaifu promised Japan's assistance in the training of experts also in the framework of the 24 advanced countries. He also confirmed the invitation of Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel to Japan.

Later in the day Mr. Dienstbier met his Japanese counterpart Taro Nakayama for talks on mutual cooperation in political, economic and cultural spheres. Dienstbier talked about the tasks concerning the transition to a market economy and explained the steps taken to ensure that foreign entrepreneurs should have equal conditions in Czechoslovakia as in the other countries.

Mr. Nakayama promised that the Japanese side will be ready to start talks of experts on an agreement for the protection of investments as early as this December. After this agreement is signed and Cocom (Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls) creates conditions for business in Czechoslovakia, prerequisites for the entry of the Japanese capital and technologies to the Czechoslovak market will be created.

Mr. Dienstbier was also received by Yoshi Sakurauchi, the chairman of the lower house of the Japanese parliament, and he conferred also with Yoshihiko Tsushiya, the chairman of the parliament's upper chamber.

Comments on Warsaw Pact Future

OW2410073990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0655 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 24 KYODO—Czechoslovakia expects the Soviet-led Warsaw Treaty Organization to be scrapped by early 1992 when the fourth follow-up meeting of the 35-member Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) is scheduled to be held in Helsinki. Czechoslovakian Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier made the remark in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE on Wednesday.

Dienstbier is in Japan for a five-day visit since last Saturday to meet Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Foreign Minsiter Taro Nakayama, and other high-ranking government officials. He said, "Prague expected the political and military functions of the Warsaw Pact to be dismantled not later than the beginning of 1992 when the Helsinki II Conference is expected to be held."

The foreign minister said the politico-military organization should be scrapped even though it may be useful as a political consultative body among the six member countries—the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria.

"We want to create a new Pan-European institution in the framework of the processes of Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE)," Dienstbier said. He said it is a vital interest of Czechoslovakia to seek a possibility to build a real democratic European order. "It is necessary and possible for the new European order to be created," Dienstbier said.

Turning to the European Community (EC), Dienstbier said Prague is expecting to join the EC in 10 years, adding that the government will make every effort to accelerate the creation of economic conditions to qualify the country for full membership in the community.

He touched on Czechoslovakia's domestic economy, saying the country will face a severe economic plight for the next two to three years because of the Persian Gulf crisis and its economic dependence on the crippled Soviet economy.

Dienstbier urged Japanese businesses to participate in joint ventures with their Czechoslovakian counterparts and invest in the central European country. He said, "We need investment in the areas of ecology, electronics, machinery, petrochemicals, and business personnel training."

Dienstbier said the "good" Czechoslovakian work force will attract Japanese investors.

Dienstbier will leave for home on Thursday.

Purchase of More European Aircraft Urged

OW2310213190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1256 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 23 KYODO—A senior European aerospace industry official on Tuesday urged Japan to purchase more aircraft and other aerospace products from Europe, complaining that the European share is quite low compared to the U.S. share.

Jean-Louis Claudon, chairman of the European business community's aeronautics and space committee, said that European products are competitive in both price and quality with U.S. goods on the global aerospace market and such competitiveness should be reflected in Japan. The committee groups 18 European aerospace companies doing business in Japan.

Speaking at a press conference, Claudon said that European products hold a share of some 30 percent in the world market for aerospace products and wondered aloud why Japan imports eight times as many U.S. products as European products.

According to the business group's data, Japan imported aerospace equipment valued at roughly 2 billion dollars in 1988, of which 87 percent came from the United States. Imports from Europe accounted for only 11 percent, the statistics show.

Analyzing the disparity, the committee said in a statement that such a difference stems from non-market forces such as Japanese participation in U.S. aerospace projects. It also alleged that the big U.S. share is attributable to U.S. pressures on Tokyo to slash its huge trade surplus as the aerospace industry is one of a few areas where the U.S. can sell products not subject to Japanese domestic competition.

The statement concluded that both Europe and Japan will benefit in the long run if the Japanese Government and corporate officials make efforts to allow European firms to compete on an equal footing in Japan.

Nationwide Probe Mounted Into Religious Group

OW2310053490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1452 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 22 (KYODO)—Police started investigations at the headquarters of the Aum Shinrikyo (Teaching of the Truth) religious group and 13 of its other facilities across the nation on Monday on suspicion of irregularities associated with the construction of a training camp in Kyushu.

Police arrested a lawyer representing the group in Tokyo and a real estate agent from Aso, Kumamoto Prefecture, for alleged illegal [words indistinct] for three leaders of the controversial religious group on suspicion of violating the national land utilization planning law and falsely registering official documents.

But Shoko Asahara, the 35-year-old founder of the group, told a press conference the same evening at the headquarters of the religion in Fujinomiya, Shizuoka Prefecture, that the police raid was an apparent act of religious suppression in an attempt to oust Aum Shinrikyo from its camp at the base of Mount Aso.

More than 400 police officers launched the coordinated early morning search of the group's headquarters in Fujinomiya, and 13 of its facilities in Tokyo, Kumamoto, Oita, and Fukuoka Prefectures.

The group's lawyer, Yoshinobu Aoyama, 30, was arrested at Haneda Airport in Tokyo, while Kumamoto police arrested Takayoshi Ando, a real estate agent of Aso, after he was taken to Ichinomiya police station near Aso, police said.

According to Kumamoto police, the group purchased a 5.9-hectare tract of land in Kumamoto Prefecture in May and began to construct a training center there without reporting to the governor of Kumamoto, as required under the Land Development Law, and allegedly submitted false documentation. But the group founder Asahara said the lawyer is innocent and they will stage a protest to support the lawyer.

The group, which claims to have 5,000 followers, has been a target of complaints by local residents near its facilities and parents of some of its young followers for what they say are its secretive activities.

The group has also been linked to the disappearance and suspected abduction of a lawyer and his family in Yokohama in November last year. Members of the group have denied any connection with the case and police said the nationwide raids had no connection with the suspected abduction.

The group, based in Fujinomiya, has 12 branches across the nation and two overseas facilities.

The missing lawyer, Tsutsumi Sakamoto, 34, who vanished along with his wife Satoko, 30, and son Tatsuhiko, 2, had acted as a legal consultant for a group of parents with complaints against Aum Shinrikyo. The parents had expressed concern about the way their children had been converted to the religion.

An Aum Shinrikyo badge was found in the Sakamoto apartment after the family disappeared.

Science, Technology Agency Issues Annual Report

OW2310190790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0850 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 23 KYODO—Science and Technology should contribute to creating safer and healthier lifestyles by harmonizing with nature and humanity, a government report said Tuesday. The Science and Technology Agency's annual report stressed the role of science in providing new visions and an improved intellectual environment, urging the creation of what it called a "techno-amenity society."

The document stressed the desirability of science positively influencing the quality of life, taking the view that should this be achieved, people will be able to enjoy a "truly affluent" life with the freedom to express their own personalities.

Noting changing attitudes toward science among the public, the 1990 report said people should regard it as a major factor in their lives rather than economic development.

The book said great things are expected of science in the fields of health, a comfortable and safe environment, and an expansion in the scope of human activities. It emphasized the growing contribution to a better quality of life from research into such areas as materials science, life science, and electronics, despite their apparent absence of immediate impact on most people's daily lives.

Specifically, the report cited such developments as the medical use of image scanners, production of new medicines through genetic engineering, water and heat disposal, waste processing techniques, and information processing technologies as seen in the widespread use of personal computers.

Japan's expenditure on research totaled nearly one trillion yen as of 1988, up 50 percent from 1983, while researchers numbered 460,000 in 1989, also an increase of 20 percent compared with five years before. In both categories, the role of private companies is growing, the report said.

The report said the level of Japan's research activities ranks second in the world after the United States and former West Germany.

Carbon Dioxide Emission Policy Declared

OW2310042690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0320 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 23 KYODO—Japan will curb its per-capita carbon dioxide emissions at present levels in the year 2000 and beyond as part of international efforts to preserve the global environment, the government declared Tuesday. The plan targets a 20-year Japanese action program, approved at Tuesday's cabinet session, to help prevent global warming which is mainly caused by the emission of carbon dioxide, officials said.

Japan's 1990 emission of carbon dioxides is estimated at 310 million tons, and its per-capita emission at 2.5 tons, officials said.

Japan will present the plan at the Second International Conference on Climate in Geneva later this month, which will discuss global targets for reduction of carbon dioxide emissions.

An international conference is scheduled to begin next February in Washington to work out a treaty setting the global targets.

The six-chapter Japanese action program will require the Government to implement two phases of action in the 20-year plan which begins next year through the year 2010.

The first phase is to take every possible measure to stabilize per-capita carbon dioxide emissions, while the second one is to hold down aggregate emissions through technological development efforts.

The action program calls for major efforts to promote development of new energy sources in the second phase to stabilize carbon dioxide emissions at the 1990 level. It proposes urban afforestation efforts, wider use of energy-saving structures, development of low-pollution automobiles, and promotion of recycling.

Carbon dioxide emitted by burning fossil fuels such as oil and coal is trapped in the atmosphere, allowing the earth's temperature to rise abnormally. This then affects agriculture with rising sea levels and floods caused by melted polar caps, officials said.

North Korea

S. Authorities Termed 'Vicious Splittists'

SK2410103690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Panmunjom October 24 (KCNA)—Hanyang and Kyonghui Universities and University of Foreign Studies of South Korea invited students of the northern half of Korea to the reunification academic festival that they are jointly preparing. But the working-level talks between students of the North and the South which had been planned to be held in Panmunjom at 11 A.M. today in this connection ended abortive [as received] again.

In this regard the North side's delegation to the North-South student talks was interviewed by a KCNA reporter at the Panmun pavilion today.

Kim Myong-to, delegate of the students of Kim Il-song University, Yi Kum-chol, delegate of the students of Wonsan University of Economics, and other delegates told the reporter that the failure of the working-level talks today following October 20 was entirely ascribable to the obstructions of the South Korean authorities who desperately block the righteous action of the South Korean students to promote national reconciliation and unity and do things helpful to accelerating the reunification of the country.

The delegates said that the South Korean authorities are vicious splittists without an ounce of reunification will and conscience, recalling that they went out to the conference room in Panmunjom on 15 occasions including this [as received] abortive talks today only to go back without grasping the hands of the fellow students from the South owing to the fascist suppression and repeated obstructions of the South Korean authorities.

It is really vexing that students cannot meet each other today when North-South high-level talks were held and North-South reunification soccer games were held in Pyongyang and Seoul and the pan-national concert for reunification took place in Pyongyang, they said, and added:

Though the South Korean authorities are loud-mouthed about "dialogue" and "exchange", this is a mere deception to cover up their true color as the splittists who do not want reunification.

Choe Kwang Demands Reunification, U.S. Pullout

SK2410103090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Pyongyang October 24 (KCNA)—Choe Kwang, chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, demanded that the United States and the South Korean authorities renounce the policy of perpetuating the division of Korea and turn to the stand for peace and reunification of Korea.

In his report at the national meeting held here today to mark the 40th anniversary of the entry of the Chinese People's Volunteers [CPV] into the Korean war, Choe Kwang said:

The United States and the South Korean authorities are still persistently pursuing the "two Koreas" policy while ignoring our reasonable proposals and sincere efforts and constantly aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula.

The United States does not intend to withdraw its troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea but is reinforcing the nuclear weapons and latest-type military hardware and inciting inter-Korean confrontation while setting afloat false rumors of arms reduction.

The South Korean authorities, while paying lip service to "dialogue for reunification," are trying to freeze the division and have the existence of "two Koreas" legitimised internationally.

Since we proposed a radical cutback of the armed forces of the North and the South out of a desire to settle the question of Korean reunification peacefully and the withdrawal of foreign troops has become a worldwide trend, there is no ground for the U.S. troops to stay in South Korea.

The United States must immediately respond to our negotiation proposal and stop aggravating the tension and obstructing peaceful reunification in Korea.

If the South Korean authorities truly want the reunification of the country, they must pull down the concrete wall, a symbol of division and confrontation, realise free travel and complete opening between the North and the South, scrap the "National Security Law" which stands in the way of reunification, release the reunification champions and people jailed for visiting the North and promptly stop all their anti-reunification acts.

KYODO 'Exclusive Interview' on Summit Agenda

OW2310135490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1333 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Pyongyang, Oct. 23 KYODO—The question of Korean unification would be on the agenda if summit talks between North Korean Leader Kim Il-song and South Korean President No Tae-u are realized, a Pyongyang official said Tuesday.

But staging such a summit depends upon the ability of the North and South Korean prime ministers to alleviate the political and military tension dividing the peninsula and to resolve the three "urgent" issues proclaimed by Pyongyang, said Yi Chol-sin, vice chairman of Pyongyang's Foreign Cultural Liaison Association. The two premiers are scheduled to meet in Seoul in December for their third round of talks.

Yi told KYODO NEWS SERVICE in an exclusive interview that "If a summit meeting is held, the issue of unification would have to be resolved." Before such a summit is held, however, North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk and his southern counterpart, Kang Yong-hun, would have to adopt a Pyongyang-proposed non-aggression pact and find a solution to the issue of representation at the United Nations, Yi said. The two prime ministers would also have to resolve the "three urgent issues" declared by Yon just before the initial premiers' meeting in September, Yi said.

Yon demanded then that Seoul cease its bid for a separate U.N. seat, halt its annual "Team Spirit" military exercise with the United States, and release three South Korean dissidents jailed for unauthorized visits to the North. Seoul freed the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, jailed for visiting the North last year, for health reasons Saturday but still holds the three dissidents named by Pyongyang in September.

After the second round of premiers' talks last week in Pyongyang, Kang spoke privately with Kim. The North Korean leader told Kang he hoped to see some "visible results" in the prime ministers talks' before an inter-Korean summit is staged.

Commenting on Saturday's agreement by Seoul and Beijing to exchange trade offices, Yi said, "China, with whom we have friendly relations, has supported our unification policy for a long time." Yi firmly denied that Seoul and Beijing would establish full diplomatic relations.

About the democratic and free market reforms sweeping Eastern Europe, Yi contended that the former East Germany had developed a political and economic reliance on the Soviet Union with the stationing there of the Soviet military, and "the East German Government was unable to take root among the people." "That would be impossible in our nation," Yi said, denying that East European developments would have any influence on North Korea.

Yi also said the recent warming of relations between Tokyo and Pyongyang is separate from North Korea's dialogue with Seoul.

Report on 'Reunification' Soccer Match in Seoul

SK2410004690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1510 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Seoul October 23 (KCNA correspondent)—A North-South reunification soccer game was held at

Chamsil Stadium on Yoido Islet [location as received] on the Han River here today, drawing attention of all the fellow countrymen in the North, South and abroad.

The stadium was packed to capacity with compatriots of Seoul and from other parts of South Korea who thronged there upon hearing the news of the match between footballers of the North and the South who had made the May Day Stadium in Pyongyang resound with shouts for reunification on October 11.

Seen in the stadium was Rev. Mun Ik-hwan who had been in jail on charge of violating the "National Security Law" after visiting Pyongyang. He stressed that the North-South reunification soccer match is a historical event in demolishing the barrier of long standing.

At 14:50, the men and women footballers of the North and the South appeared in the stadium hand in hand in a row amid the warm welcome of the spectators and waved their hands to them.

Kim Yu-sun, chairman of the State Sports Commission and chairman of the DPRK Olympic Committee, and his party appeared in the platform.

The platform party included Mayor of Seoul Ko Kon, "Sports Minister" Chong Tong-song and other sports officials of the South side.

"Sports Minister" Chong Tong-song of the South side in his welcome speech called upon the footballers of the North and the South to show their reconciliation to 70 million fellow countrymen by displaying an admirable sports spirit beyond the thought of winning the game.

Chairman Kim Yu-sun of our side said in his speech the reunification soccer games in Pyongyang and Seoul are not merely sports festivals but reunification festivals making an active contribution to the accomplishment of our nation's cause of reunification.

The fields of North-South reunification soccer games are not mere soccer fields where the North and the South teams compete for victory, he said, adding: They are historical fields for flinging the door wide open for reunification, the cherished desire of the nation.

Let all of us run and run together with the footballers of the North and the South with an ardent reunification desire to become one as the fellow countrymen, as brethren of one and the same blood, opening a new historical chapter of national harmony and reunification, he concluded.

Souvenir pennants and badges were exchanged between the gridders of the North and the South amid the enthusiastic applause of the spectators.

Footballers and sports officials of the North and the South posed for photographs in the centre of the stadium.

Then, the game began with the kick-off of our team.

Artistes noted in Seoul led the cheering crowds and the spectators sent applauses and cheers whenever the players demonstrated their high skill and talents.

The song of "Arirang" and shouts "national reunification," "national reunification" resounded the stadium.

Our team lost one score in the first half.

The stadium was pervaded with the ardent desire for reunification with the passage of the time.

When the match ended, the footballers exchanged uniforms with each other.

They went round the stadium with their tightly grasped hands raised high amid the loud singing of the songs "Our Wish Is Reunification [no end quotation mark as received] and "Arirang."

The spectators congratulated them with enthusiastic applause and cheers.

Ringing out from them were voices "thanks to the footballers of the North" and shouts "national reunification," "national reunification."

South's Sports Association Fetes Soccer Teams

SK2410050990 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0450 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Seoul October 23 (KCNA correspondent)—The South side's sports association arranged a dinner Tuesday evening in honor of the North side's soccer teams after the North-South reunification soccer game.

Invited there on our side were the soccer teams headed by Kim Yu-sun, chairman of the State Sports Commission and chairman of the Olympic Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and journalists.

Present there on the South side were Kim Chong-yol, chairman of the South Korean Sports Association, and sports officials.

Kim Yu-sun said in his speech: The players of the North and the South rather shared feelings of kinship, joining hands, than having a trial of strength, and hundreds of thousands of spectators in Pyongyang and Seoul cheered the players of both sides with shouts rocking heaven and earth. These were shouts of the fellow countrymen aspiring after reunification and the eruption of our nation's unswerving will that the country is one and it must be reunified.

Our sportsmen in the North and the South can say proudly that they have done grand things for the country and the fellow countrymen through the reunification soccer games, he declared.

In keeping with the national unity and the fellow countrymen's desire for reunification that has surged to the highest tide ever with the reunification soccer games as an occasion, he said, we should bring a single North-South team into shape and thus demonstrate our nation's resourcefulness and courage in the international arena and give fullest play to our fellow countrymen's will for reunification.

The chairman of the South side's sports association in his speech said he felt honored to host a dinner for the North side's teams who came to Seoul for a reunification soccer game. This dinner, he added, is not for entertainment but for the achievement of the noble cause of unity and reunification.

Our soccer game, he went on, should be conducive to ending division. The North and the South should proceed to the forthcoming world games with single teams.

Members of our side's teams and reporters visited the Building 63 in Seoul in the morning.

South Treatment of North Delegation Assailed

SK2310115790 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Our soccer team and its entourage, which are visiting Seoul for the North-South reunification soccer match, were faced with ugly incidents from the beginning and were much displeased. Many slogans of welcome that reflect the feelings of the fellow countrymen in the South were placed along the almost-200-li road from Panmunjom to Seoul, and people from all walks of life were also seen waving their hands and welcoming our delegation. Contrary to this, incidents that inspire mistrust and antagonism also took place before the eyes of our athletic delegation. As a result, this cast a dark cloud in the hearts of the members of our delegation.

First of all, when they saw numerous tanks with their barrels raised lined both sides of the road from Imjingak to Munsan—a scene totally unbecoming to the slogans of welcome that read: We are glad to see you, all of the members of the athletic delegation from the North and One blood, one nation—our athletic delegation and its entourage felt very uneasy. How should we interpret this?

The workers and sportsmen on the northern half of our Republic received the soccer players of the South, who came to Pyongyang on 9 October for the North-South reunification soccer match, as envoys of reunification, and warmly welcomed them with a brotherly love. We are visiting the fellow countrymen of the South, also, as envoys of reunification: We did not enter the South to see gun barrels leveled against fellow countrymen. Those who do not like national unity made us see tanks with their barrels raised and violently blocked those who tried to welcome us. We knew that the South side's promotion headquarters for the pannational rally had decided that it would send a welcoming group to Panmunjom on 21 October and that the National Council of University Student Representatives and the National Democratic Alliance had announced that they would line up an approximately 500-man welcoming group along the road leading to Seoul. However, we could not see these welcoming groups anywhere. We were able to know what had happened when we heard from the first radio network that the police blocked the welcoming group of the promotion headquarters for the pannational rally and students that were headed for Imjingak at the Samsong-ri checkpoint and other places. We could see from our moving cars agents dragging citizens—who tried to welcome our athletic delegation—into back alleys. Whenever we saw these scenes, our hearts were filled with anger and grief.

The discourteous reception of guests by those who pursue antagonism was seen also at the banquet which the president of the South side's soccer federation arranged on the evening of 21 October. That day, the South side arranged tables in such a way that our young athletes sat with those who are not athletes of the opposing side. We did not do this way when the South side's athletic delegation came to Pyongyang. We arranged tables in such way that several people respectively from each side sat around each table, that athletes, officials, and reporters respectively sat together, and that, as a result, people of the same occupation could talk together over dinner. However, the South side did not do it that way. It arranged tables so our athletes sat among strangers who were not athletes of the opposing side. As a result, our athletes did not feel free, and could not eat at ease, not to mention talking. Of course, we do not find fault with the South side's soccer federation, which sincerely arranged a banquet for us. We are not happy about the mischief by those who do not like national unity and who inspire antagonism. In particular, what not only displeased but also exasperated us is the fact that, upon our athletic delegation's arrival, those who inspire antagonism led pro-government newspapers and broadcasting stations to start slandering and defaming us. Pro-government newspapers carried articles that find fault with the grand-scale mass gymnastics called single-minded unity in which 50,000 students in Pyongyang participate. Also, pro-government journalists found fault with the facts that young team members cried for peace and shouted antinuclear slogans in the School Children's Palace. They also found fault with the demand that the student Yim Su-kyong be released.

At a time when, following the North-South reunification soccer match in Pyongyang, our athletic delegation is visiting Seoul for another match, these ugly incidents took place. This clearly shows South Korea forces who do not like national unity and reunification and who try continuously to embark upon the road toward antagonism and division. The people in the North and South are watching with acute vigilance the activities of antireunification forces who try to hinder national unity.

More on 'Slanderous' Reporting

SK2310064090 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0023 GMT 23 Oct 90

[NODONG SINMUN 23 October commentary: "Provocative Acts That Run Counter to Reunification"]

[Text] The persons in authority in South Korea are using the North-South reunification soccer match in seeking an impure political purpose. This is proven by unjust acts that the South side committed on 21 October, when our side's athletic delegation arrived in Seoul for the North-South reunification soccer match.

As reported, in the belief that the North-South reunification soccer match will serve as another occasion in which an atmosphere for national reconciliation, unity, and reunification will be heightened, the people of the northern half of the Republic enthusiastically saw off our side's athletic delegation, and Seoul citizens—and South Korean people in general—warmly welcomed them with a brotherly love. However, the persons in authority in South Korea showed on Korean Broadcasting System television a movie that viciously slanders and defames our party's honorable revolutionary history, and carried in TONG-A ILBO, CHUNGANG ILBO, and other newspapers articles that slander our system. They also led Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation reporters and other South Korean reporters to surround our reporters, to find fault with us, and to hinder our reporters' news gathering. Many of the South side's guides even wore insignias that incite us. Even though our side lodged a due protest with the South side against this, it has not changed.

[Pyongyang KCNA in English 0431 GMT 23 October reported in a related item that "the South Korean authorities let the 'KBS' Television screen a film insulting and hurling malicious slanders at our social system and the glorious revolutionary history of the Workers' Party of Korea, and made newspapers including TONGA ILBO and CHUNGANG ILBO carry articles speaking ill of our social system. They also instigated reporters of the South side including those of the "Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation" to surround our reporters and pick a quarrel with them and obstruct their news coverage."]

Needless to say, these acts that they committed after having received us as their guests are not only discourteous, senseless acts but also acts that violate the mutual agreement. The acts by the South side further displease us because they committed these provocative acts in an effort to incite us, thus impairing the North-South relations which are developing well, and in an effort to use the North-South reunification soccer match not in promoting national reconciliation and unity, but in inspiring confrontational atmospheres.

All of the land of the North and South is filled with sentiment for reunification. This atmosphere is being further heightened with the North-South High-Level Talks, the North-South reunification soccer match, and the pannational reunification music festival as an occasion. Any Korean must be pleased at this and must not commit acts that throw a cold blanket over these atmospheres, rather than further inspiring them. However, seizing the opportunity of the North-South reunification soccer match, the persons in authority in South Korea are deliberately inciting us and inspiring a confrontational atmosphere. How can one say that they are acts?

In the recent North-South High-Level Talks in Pyongyang, under the excuse of the recognition of its existence, the South side insisted that two Koreas be justified by mutual consent. While dreaming of North-South confrontation, it refused to accept our proposal for adopting a North-South nonaggression declaration. The South side is definitely not happy about national reconciliation, unity, and reunification. The acts which the South side committed after having received our side's athletic delegation cannot be interpreted otherwise than as the extension of its confrontation and divisionist attitude.

The South side's delegates, suite members, and reporters who came to Pyongyang for the North-South High-Level Talks and the North-South reunification soccer match spent meaningful days amid our people's warm brotherly welcome, and their activities were not restricted at all. Even though many of their activities incurred our displeasure, we did not say anything about them out of the spirit of national reconciliation and unity. However, the South side is inspiring confrontation by carrying slanderous reports and hindering the activities of reporters. How can we overlook this? Assuming the stand of national unity and reunification, the South side must behave itself.

'Smear Campaign' Denounced

SK2410060190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0532 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Pyongyang October 24 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Wednesday comments on the vicious anti-North, anti-communist propaganda spread by the so-called "journalists" of the South side who have been to Pyongyang to cover the inter-Korean high-level talks.

The news analyst says:

TONGA ILBO October 21 ran an article of its correspondent who had been to Pyongyang which insulted the mass gymnastic display "Single-Hearted Unity" performed by 50,000 youth and students of Pyongyang and an article which claimed that young pupils "pretended to love peace" with "miniature nukes" in hands at the school children's palace.

The HANGUK ILBO newspaper of South Korea carried an article by Yi Song-chun, "chief of the political section" of the paper, which said everything he saw in Pyongyang was matchless in the world, but was "inefficient" and "unattractive."

We bitterly denounce the smear campaign of the South Korean press as a contradiction to the mission of the press and a challenge to the fellow countrymen's desire for unity and reunification and strongly demand that such false propaganda be immediately stopped.

The chief delegate and other delegates, the suite and journalists of the South side who have been to

Pyongyang for inter-Korean high-level talks were unsparing in praising the Paekhwawon Guest House, the People's Palace of Culture, the Mangyongdae School Children's Palace, the performance given by art circle members of the palace and the mass gymnastic display "Single-Hearted Unity" as "something one cannot see in any other country of the world" and "something one can never find in the South."

Yi Song-chun of HANGUK ILBO, who is taking the lead in the anti-communist smear campaign, told reporters of the North in Pyongyang: "The North is an earthly paradise and the people are full of happiness. Pyongyang is a city enclosed with parks which is free from pollution. Seoul cannot be compared with Pyongyang."

He himself even said that South Korea is a colony of the United States.

Why do the Southerners say good words before us and, back home, slander us, reversing black and white?

This shows that the press of South Korea has discarded its original mission and turned into a propaganda machine of those who want North-South confrontation and division.

We cannot but ask the Southern reporters who have been to Pyongyang how much they were paid by the "Security Planning Board," the "Army Security Command" and other intelligence services before throwing away their faith.

It is, indeed, a shameful act devoid of principles.

The anti-North, anti-communist smear campaign of the South Korean press is, no doubt, an offspring and an extension of the South Korean authorities' policy of confrontation and division.

The acts of the South Korean authorities and the press which follows them cannot be construed otherwise than emanating from a sinister intention to throw a wet blanket over the desire for reunification growing in the North and the South, encourage the division, incite the North-South confrontation among people and "unify the country under the liberal democratic system."

It is only too natural that our people should strongly demand that the paid trumpeters of South Korea spoiling the atmosphere of reunification with a false propaganda be never allowed to set foot again on the land of the Northern half of the country.

Closing Reportage on Pannational Concert

Unification March Staged

SK2410015090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Pyongyang October 23 (KCNA)—A grand march for national reunification of the members of the art troupes and visiting groups of the North, South and overseas who had participated in the pan-national concert for reunification in Pyongyang took place this afternoon.

The route for the march from the February 8 House of Culture to Kim Il-song Stadium was crowded with citizens who came out to hail the success of the concert held for the first time in the history of 45 year-long national division and welcome the participants in the march.

The marchers wore shoulder-bands reading "National reunification," "Complete opening," "Our wish is reunification," "Great national unity" and so on.

Amid the playing of "Song of March for National Reunification" by a women band, the march started, carrying placards reading "Korea is one!" "Let us hand down reunified country to posterity!" "Let us make the 1990s a decade of national reunification!" etc.

Citizens on the street and balconies of the high-storied apartment houses enthusiastically welcomed the marchers, shouting "national reunification" and waving bunches of flowers.

They gave silk banners in different names and flowers to the marchers and warmly hugged them.

They hugged each other, saying "we are deeply touched," "we feel as if we saw a reunified country" and "let us achieve reunification through concerted efforts."

The marchers waved to the cheering crowds, shouting "national reunification" and "national reunification."

Pannational Concert Closes

SK2310110190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Pyongyang October 23 (KCNA)—The pan-national concert for reunification which opened here on October 18 closed today after performances to full houses.

The closing session took place at the February 8 House of Culture.

Present there were Vice-Premier of the Administration Council Chang Chol, chairman of the C.C. [Central Committee], the General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Arts of Korea Paek In-chun, Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland Han Si-hae and other officials concerned, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the pan- national concert for reunification Yun I-sang, art troupes and delegations of Koreans in the North, South and abroad and members of the visiting groups of Koreans overseas participating in the concert, the chief of the mission of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) in Pyongyang, musicians, working people and artists in the city.

Speeches were made at the session by member of the North side to the preparatory committee for the pan-national concert for reunification Chong Pong-sok, delegate of the Seoul traditional musical instrumentalist group Hwang Pyong-ki and conductor Yi Chun-mu of the delegation of Korean musicians in the eastern part of the United States on behalf of Korean musicians abroad.

Then a resolution of the participants in the concert was adopted.

The resolution laid stress on energetically striving to preserve the excellent traditions of national music and seek its uniform development, and bending every possible effort to jointly and vigorously promote musical creation and art performances through cooperation and exchange among musicians of the two parts of the country and those overseas.

It said the pan-national concert for reunification should be further activated.

An appeal to the Korean musicians at home and abroad was adopted at the session in the name of the pan-national concert for reunification.

The historical concert has confirmed that the excellent tradition of national musical art has been defended and the soul of the nation is pulsating in blood even in the tragedy of the 45 years long division, the appeal said, and continued:

We have keenly felt that our nation is one body and one flesh and blood who cannot live separated any longer.

Urging the musicians to contribute to the unity and reunification of the nation with music, the appeal said they should create and perform more songs of national independence, songs of peace and songs of great national unity and thus rouse the entire fellow countrymen to the noble cause of national reunification.

The appeal earnestly called upon all the patriotic-minded Korean musicians to energetically work to accelerate the day when the whole nation will become one by achieving a great unity under the banner of national reunification, irrespective of ideology, idea, political view and religious belief.

Yun I-sang made a closing address at the session.

Though the Korean musicians live separated in the North and the South and abroad and there are differences in political view and religious belief, they confirmed at home and abroad through the concert that the soul of traditional national music is alive sound and healthy and the aspiration and desire to develop national music in a uniform way are one and the same, he said. The Korean artistes, he stated, should create many songs of reunification and valiantly turn out in the reunification movement of the nation and thus honorably carry out the mission and duty of musicians for the country and the nation.

Seoul Group Leaves Pyongyang

SK2410045590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Pyongyang October 24 (KCNA)—The Seoul traditional musical instrumentalist group under Professor Hwang Pyong-ki of the music college of Ehwa Women's University left here at 7 this morning by train after participating in the pan-national concert for reunification.

It was sent off at Pyongyang railway station by thousands of citizens and artists expressing regret at parting.

It was sent off by Paek In-chun, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Arts, Yo Yon-ku and Han Si-hae, vice-chairmen of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, and other officials concerned.

Group Passes Through Panmunjom

SK2410045790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Pyongyang October 24 (KCNA)—The Seoul traditional musical instrumentalist group which had participated in the Pan-National concert for Reunification today went over to the South side's portion of Panmunjom via Kaesong.

A large number of working people bade farewell with warm cheers to the artistes of the South side with compatriotic feelings along the 4-kilometre route from Kaesong railway station to Tongil (reunification) Street.

At 12:00, the Seoul traditional musical instrumentalist group represented by Hwang Pyong-ki, professor of the Music College of Ehwa Women's University, entered the South side's portion of Panmunjom.

It was seen off by Kim Won-kyun, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Musicians' Union and chairman of the North side's preparatory committee for the concert, and officials concerned.

Chinese Delegations Arrive in Pyongyang

SK1910231390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Pyongyang October 19 (KCNA)—A delegation of the party school of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) headed by its Vice-President Shu Xing, a friendship delegation of the Sichuan Provincial Committee of the CPC headed by its Deputy Secretary Nie Yinggui and a visiting group of the Sino-Korean Friendship Association headed by its Vice-Chairman Huang Shiming arrived in Pyongyang on October 19.

Further on Anniversary of CPV Entry Into War

Li Tieying Delegation Arrives

SK2410050190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Pyongyang October 24 (KCNA)—A Chinese party and government delegation headed by Li Tieying, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, state councillor and minister in charge of the State Education Commission, arrived here today to participate in the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the entry of the Chinese People's Volunteers [CPV] into the Korean war.

At the airport, a large number of working people in the city warmly welcomed the goodwill envoys of the Chinese people, waving miniature flags of the two countries and bunches of flowers and chanting slogans "welcome" and "friendship."

The delegation was met at the airport by Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea; and officials concerned and Ambassador Zheng Yi and officials of the Chinese Embassy here and others.

A welcome function took place at the airport.

Public Security Delegation Arrives

SK2410061990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0509 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Pyongyang October 24 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Ministry of Public Security of China headed by its special Advisor Gao Xu arrived here and a Liaoning Provincial friendship delegation of China headed by Yi Chun, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the Liaoning Provincial People's Congress, arrived in Sinuiju Tuesday to participate in the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the entry of the Chinese People's Volunteers into the Korean war.

On the same day, Ilario Fiore, chief of the Bureau of the Italian Radio and Television for Far East in Beijing, arrived here.

Receptions Mark Anniversary

SK2310053190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0416 GMT 23 Oct 9

[Text] Pyongyang October 23 (KCNA)—A reception was given in joint name by the party and power, administrative and economic organs of North Hamgyong Province Monday evening on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the entry of the Chinese People's Volunteers [CPV] into the Korean war.

Invited to the reception were Chinese Consul General in Chongjin Jie Qihua and his consulate officials, the members of the Heilongjiang provincial, China, friendship delegation and other Chinese guests staying in Chongjin.

Present there were Kang Song-san, chief secretary of the North Hamgyong provincial committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the North Hamgyong provincial people's committee; Kim Yong-yun, chairman of the North Hamgyong Provincial Administration and Economic Guidance Committee; and other officials concerned.

Present on invitation at a reception given in Kaesong Municipality were Tian Sheng, member of the Chinese People's Volunteers of the Korean-Chinese side to the Military Armistice Commission, and members of the CPV Liaison Office to the MAC.

Present there were Han Kwang-nim, chairman of the Kaesong Municipal Administration and Economic Guidance Committee; Yi Pyong-yong, secretary of the Kaesong Municipal Committee of the WPK; Maj. Gen. Choe Ui-ung, senior member of our side to the MAC; and other officials concerned.

Speeches were made at the receptions which took place in a friendly atmosphere.

Wreaths Laid in CPV Cemetery

SK2310054190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0407 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Pyongyang October 23 (KCNA)—Wreaths were laid in the cemetery of fallen fighters of the Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) in Kaesong on October 22 on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the entry of the CPV into the Korean war.

The wreaths were laid in joint name of the Kaesong Municipal Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Kaesong Municipal People's Committee and the Kaesong Municipal Administration and Economic Guidance Committee and in the names of the Military Armistice Commission, the local units of the Korean People's Army, the Kaesong Municipal Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions, the Kaesong Municipal Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth, the Kaesong Municipal Committee of the Union of Agricultural Working People, the Kaesong Municipal Committee of the Korea-China Friendship Association and the Liaison office of the CPV.

Working people in Kaesong laid bunches of flowers in the cemetery.

Wreaths were also laid at the cemetery of fallen fighters of the Korean People's Army in Kaesong.

Chinese Poems, Stories Printed

SK2310102390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Pyongyang October 23 (KCNA)—The literary and art publishing house of Korea recently published translations of a collection of true stories and collections of poems written by Chinese writers on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the entry of the Chinese People's Volunteers in the Korean war.

The books loudly sing of the traditional friendship and militant solidarity between the Korean and Chinese peoples.

Carried in the collection of true stories "Who Is Most Lovable" are 17 stories including "Korean Comrade," "In Snowstorm" and "Deep Regret at Parting" showing the militant friendship of the Korean and Chinese peoples consolidated in the flames of the struggle against the U.S. imperialists, the common enemy.

They are mainly works by Wei Wei of China who followed the army in the Korean war as a writer during the period of the Great Fatherland Liberation War of the Korean people (1950-1953).

The collection of poems "Song of Sino-Korean Friendship" carries poems written by Chinese writer Guo Moruo in praise of the great leader President Kim Il-song on a goodwill visit to China.

Also edited in it are poems singing in an excited tone of the feelings of friendship while the writer was visiting Korea at the head of a Chinese people's delegation from September to October, 1958.

This collection of poems is Guo Moruo's handwriting presented to President Kim Il-song, which is now on display at the international friendship exhibition in Korea.

"For Love and for Revenge" is a collection of poems written by Chinese poets on the noble idea of "resisting America and aiding Korea, safeguarding the home and defending the motherland".

It contains 37 poems representing the call from the bottom of the hearts, the appeal of conscience of the dependable revolutionary comrades-in-arms of the Korean people, and true internationalist soldiers.

Bridge Renamed To Mark Event

SK2410055390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0505 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Pyongyang October 24 (KCNA)—The Amnok-Gang Bridge was named Korea-China Friendship Bridge with a due ceremony in Sinuiju, a border city, on October 23 on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the entry of the Chinese People's Volunteers into the Korean war.

In the address made on the occasion, Cho Si-ung, chief secretary of the North Pyongan Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the North Pyongan Provincial People's Committee, said that naming the Amnok-Gang Bridge Korea-China Friendship Bridge is a unanimous will of the Korean people and the Chinese people who set great store by the Korea-China friendship and an auspicious event of weighty significance in further consolidating and developing the Korea-China relations of friendship in conformity with the requirement of the time and the developing revolution.

Head of the Liaoning Provincial Friendship Delegation of China Yi Chun, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the Liaoning Provincial People's Congress of China, said in his speech that this naming clearly shows how the two parties, two governments and peoples of China and Korea attach importance to and set great store by the development of the Sino-Korean friendship.

Noting that the China-Korea Friendship Bridge is a friendly bond closely linking the Chinese and Korean peoples and a symbol of the traditional Sino-Korean friendship, he said that this friendship will be carried forward down through generations and shine for ever.

Meeting Marks CPV Entry

SK2410062390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0511 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Pyongyang October 24 (KCNA)—A meeting was held in Sinuiju Tuesday to mark the 40th anniversary of the entry of the Chinese People's Volunteers [CPV] into the Korean war.

Addressing the meeting, Yom Chae-man, chairman of the North Pyongan Provincial Administration and Economic Guidance Committee, recalled that the fraternal Chinese people faithful to their class obligations and proletarian internationalist duty sent to the Korean front volunteers consisting of their fine sons and daughters under the banner of "Resisting America and aiding Korea, safeguarding the home and defending the motherland", with the unswerving will and desire to share life and death, sweets and bitters with the Korean people who rose in the sacred struggle deciding the destiny of the country and the nation.

The Korea-China friendship is an indestructible, deep-rooted friendship sealed with blood in the flames of the protracted struggle against common enemies and a solid and great friendship which is developing on the basis of the particular intimacy between the leaders of the two countries, he said, adding:

We will, as in the past, so in the future, too, fight shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal Chinese people in the struggle against imperialism and for the victory of the socialist cause.

Head of the Liaoning Provincial friendship delegation of China Li Chun, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the Liaoning Provincial People's Congress, said in his speech that China and Korea are socialist neighbours which are in the relationship of lips and teeth and the peoples of the two countries are comrades and comrades-in-arms like real brothers. They have shared sweets and bitters and pulled through difficulties together in the joint struggle against the enemy, he noted, and stressed:

The Chinese people will treasure the Sino-Korean friendship like the apple of an eye invariably under whatever storm and stress and in face of whatever international changes and do all they can to further strengthen and develop this traditional great friendship.

The North Pyongan Provincial party and power bodies and administrative and economic organs gave a reception in joint name Tuesday evening on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the CPV's entry into the Korean war.

O Chin-u Meets CPV Delegation

SK2310111390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1058 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Pyongyang October 23 (KCNA)—Minister of People's Armed Forces O Chin-u today met and had a friendly talk with the delegation of the former Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) headed by Colonel General Zhang Zhen, president of national defence university of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (CPLA), who was acting commander and political commissar of an Army Corps of the CPV, the heroes' delegation of the CPV headed by Lieutenant General Yao Xian, deputy commander and airforce commander of Beijing Military Area of the CPLA, and the delegation of martyrs' families of the CPV headed by Major General Hu Guiyou, political commissar of the communications department of the general staff of the CPLA, which are staying here to participate in the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the CPV's entry into the Korean war.

Present there were chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army Choe Kwang and Chinese ambassador here Zheng Yi.

Film on Entry Into War Shown

SK2410052390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Pyongyang October 24 (KCNA)—The Ministry of Culture and Art arranged a film show at the People's Palace of Culture Tuesday on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the entry of the Chinese People's Volunteers [CPV] into the Korean war.

Present on the occasion were First Vice-Minister of Culture and Art Ho Paek-san, General Kim Kwang-chin of the Korean People's Army, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Cha Pong-chu, Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries O Munhan, other personages concerned and working people in the city.

Invited there were the delegation of the former Chinese People's Volunteers headed by Col. Gen. [Colonel General] Zhang Zhen, acting commander and political commissar of an army corps of the CPV and president of National Defence University of the Chinese People's Liberation Army [CPLA]; the heroes' delegation of the CPV headed by Lt. Gen. [Lieutenant General] Yao Xian, deputy commaner of Beijing Military Area and airforce commander of Beijing Military Area of the CPLA; the delegation of martyrs' families of the CPV headed by Maj. Gen. [Major General] Hu Guiyou, political commissar of the Communications Department of the General Staff of the CPLA; and other Chinese delegations and guests staying in Korea and Ambassador Zheng Yi and officials of the Chinese Embassy here.

The participants saw a Korean feature film "A New Legend on the River Piryu".

Books on CPV Published

SK2410101490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Beijing October 23 (KCNA)—The book "Picture of the War Resisting America and Aiding Korea" was off the press by the Press Company of the China Federation of Literature and Art Circles and the Museum of Resisting America and Aiding Korea on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the entry of the Chinese People's Volunteers [CPV] into the Korean war, according to the Beijing daily dated October 23.

The large book carries many photographs and articles recording the whole course of the war.

Meanwhile, the Literature and Art Publishing House of the Chinese People's Liberation Army published new military literary books including "Reminiscences of the War Resisting America and Aiding Korea," "Selected Proses Resisting America and Aiding Korea," "Breakthrough Made Here," "Spring, Soldiers Call You," etc. With a view to handing down the spirit of patriotism, internationalism and revolutionary heroism of the Chinese People's Volunteers.

WPK Official Meets PRC Provincial Delegation

SK2410061590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Pyongyang October 24 (KCNA)—So Yun-sok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee and chief secretary of the South Pyongan Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and chairman of the South Pyongan Provincial People's Committee, Tuesday met and had a friendly conversation with the friendship delegation of the Sichuan Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China headed by its Deputy Secretary Nie Yinggui. [name as received]

Kim Il-song Speech Carried by PRC Media

SK1810050190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0446 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Pyongyang October 18 (KCNA)—"It Is a Basic Guarantee for the Victory of the Revolution To Strengthen the Party and Increase Its Leadership Role," a speech of the great leader President Kim Il-song at a banquet given in celebration of the 45th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea, was carried by the Chinese papers PEOPLE'S DAILY GUANGMING DAILY and JIEFANG RIBAO and reported by XINHUA.

The Cuban paper GRANMA also carried this speech.

Scientific-Technical Protocols Signed With Cuba

SK2310053990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0410 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Havana October 21 (KCNA)—A protocol of the 14th meeting of the inter-Governmental Economic and Scientific-Technological Consultative Committee between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Cuba was signed in Havana on October 19.

It was signed on our side by Vice-Premier Kim Tal-hyon who is heading a DPRK Government delegation and on the opposite side by head of the Cuban Government delegation Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz, minister of foreign trade.

A protocol of the 14th meeting of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Subcommittee and a protocol on the mutual delivery of commodities and payments for 1991 were signed on the same day between the two governments.

Achievements, Upswing in Production Areas Noted

SK2410101690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Pyongyang October 24 (KCNA)—A productive upswing is being effected in different domains of the national economy of Korea.

The Hwanghae iron and steel complex, a reliable metallurgical base, has increased the output of pig iron 20.6 percent, steel 40.5 percent and rolled steel 24.7 percent in recent one month above the previous month.

Coal mines of South Pyongan Province which hold a share of more than 60 percent of the nation's coal output boosted the output of coal by 940,000 tons in the first 9 months or more this year above the corresponding period last year.

In this period the Anju District coal mining complex lifted the coal output 19 percent and the Kaechon District coal mining complex excavated 193,000 extra tons of coal.

Power stations under the power industry commission are carrying out their daily assignments at 110 percent.

The Kim Chong-tae electric locomotive complex is stepping up at the final stage the preparations for general assembling of the 7,000 hp 8-axle electric locomotive of a new type with a traction power 1.3 times and the life span of traction motor 3.5 times the previous one. Pohe builders of Tongil Street assembled apartment houses for more than 2,000 families in recent one month.

South Korea

N,S Agree: No Asylum for Exchange Visitors

SK2410015390 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 24 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] South and North Korea have agreed not to provide political asylum to people who visit from the other side on civilian or government-sponsored trips, a government official said.

He said yesterday the two sides reached the agreement as they shared the view that political asylum, which may occur in the course of frequent exchanges between the South and the North, would not be conducive to promotion reconciliation between the two halves of the divided country.

The two sides have exchanged documents guaranteeing the safe return of visitors, he said.

For example, he said Seoul issued to Pyongyang documents guaranteeing the safe return of the North Koreans who came to Seoul in September for the first round of the inter-Korean premiers' talks.

North Korea also gave similar papers to the South for the South Koreans who attended the second round of the high-level talks in Pyongyang this month.

The documents make it extremely difficult for South and North Korean authorities to accept requests for political asylum, said the official who wanted to remain anonymous.

The Seoul government, however, will continue to accept North Korean soldiers or civilians who cross the Demilitarized Zone into the South and civilians who come to Seoul by way of third countries, the official said.

Until now, the government has accepted all requests for political asylum from North Koreans.

Students' Request To Contact North Rejected

SK2410044890 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0400 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Telephone message by Kim Sang-hyop, president of the Korea National Red Cross, to Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the DPRK Red Cross Society Central Committee, on 24 October—read by announcer]

[Text] Today, Kim Sang-hyop, Korea National Red Cross president, sent a telephone message to Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the North Korean Red Cross Society

Central Committee, and notified him that the ROK Government had rejected the application by the student councils of three universities, including the Hanguk University of Foreign Studies, which had applied to have contacts with North Korean students.

In the telephone message, President Kim Sang-hyop said that the authorities of our government rejected the application to contact the North Korea students because the academic seminar—which some of our side's students hopes to hold with the North side's students—is not only unfavorable for achieving mutual understanding and unity, but there also is concern that this may produce negative effects in the ongoing North-South dialogues or in other various North-South exchanges under promotion.

In a telephone message to our side yesterday, the North Korean Red Cross Society notified us that the students of the Korean Students Committee will go to Panmunjom at 1100 on 24 October to hold the North-South students' working-level talks.

Accomplishments, Hopes of Pyongyang Talks Viewed

SK2310022390 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 23 Oct 90 p 8

[From the "Bench Mark" column by Kim Yong-won: "Incremental Improvement"]

[Text] On Friday, our prime minister and his party returned from a four-day meeting in Pyongyang. We shall know more and more as the days go by about what they accomplished there and the expected effects of the conversation. Suffice here to voice our satisfaction with the news that the premiers will have a third meeting in Seoul in December. We shall always be happy to know that the dialogue between the hapless divided parts of the country will go on steadily, continually.

Today, Pyongyang's soccer team will play their Seoul counterpart at Chamsil Stadium. This is a sort of return match for the Pyongyang game that took place several days ago after the close of the Beijing Asiad. Let us hope that the Pyongyang-Seoul soccer match will continue annually or semiannually as we used to enjoy up until more than half a century ago.

Soon after prime minister returned from Pyongyang, the authorities released the Rev. Mun Il-hwan (who is serving a prison term for violation of the National Security Law), ostensibly for his poor health. One does not have to read between the lines and say, "After this, therefore because of this (Post hoc, ergo propter hoc)." Whether the two events are related or not, it is clear that the reverend's release will be welcomed by Pyongyang. Any conciliatory gesture on anybody's part is most highly welcome at this time as foreboding further warming of the cold relations between the two Koreas. At no other time is the courage of yielding so much in demand.

There is a political development (internal) which is quite unrelated to the ongoing premiers meeting. It is the sign of relenting by both ruling and opposition camps. It is difficult to say which came first, but the ruling party has indicated that it is going to reconsider the local autonomy issue and also the opposition parties have hinted that they may as well return to the legislative hall for their unending political battle with the ruling circles, including one on the issues of local autonomy and a revision to the Constitution in favor of a cabinet responsible system. This column has never lent countenance to the opposition parties' age-old penchant for truancy. Resistance, to be sure, is an important means of opposition, but in a democratic setup, resistance must be carried out in a nonviolent manner, that is to say, passively if need be, but not negatively. The world will not change within one generation or two, within one legislative term or two.

If the defeat of the opposition on a measure proves inevitable, what they can do is to leave a record of the grounds of their opposition, and not walk out of the conference hall or resort to hunger strikes. Anyone who believes in his cause and feels that he is losing, he can appeal through the media. I will say with the loudest voice I can raise at my tender age of seventy-something, that if there is one reliable, sound sector in our society that is the press. I shall not hesitate that the press isn't perfect, but it is becoming perfect with each passing day. Anybody with a grievance can appeal to them with logic and persistence.

As I write this on Monday morning, the top news concerns the Seoul government, which having considered the exchanges at the Pyongyang session, is contemplating acceding to the North Korean proposal for joint nonaggression declaration, which after all is not much removed from what President No Tae-u has been repeatedly advocating (in October last year at the UN General Assembly and also in a public statement in May this year). Well, that will take care of one major step forward together.

Personally, I feel that North and South Korea have many, many hurdles to cross before they reach a reunion. One major hurdle is the difference in polity. Kim Il-song is, for example, as has been for the past 45 years, the monarchical ruler of North Korea, while the South is ruled by a president with a definite term of office. When Pak Chong-hui resorted to repeated revisions to the Constitution enabling himself to remain in office continuously, one of the reasons, stated as well as firmly believed, was that he needed absolute power that matched that held by Kim Il-song. As we look back, Pak could have relied on his people, but then it is also true that his people did not have today's sophistication.

One of the initial major hurdles lying across our path to reunion is this nonaggression pact, which of course should be, as Kim Il-song must be aware, predicated upon Pyongyang's assurance that it has abandoned its goal of unifying the country under the banner of communism.

Once this assurance is given, the rest will be relatively easy, even though still time-consuming. Once reassured, Seoul will reciprocate it automatically with brotherly conciliation and care.

Perhaps I may be permitted to make one prediction, after all. Korean reunification will of necessity be built on incremental improvements.

Editorial on Effect of Press on N-S Dialogue

SK2410095090 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 23 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Reunification and the Press"]

[Text] How to reconcile the issue of reunification—or the issue of promoting North-South relations—with the functioning of the press has turned out to be a very important point of contention. It is true that for a long time the press in our country, and in the North, has remained largely under the influence of cold war rhetoric—a result of division. Recently, however, the press on our side has come to enjoy unprecedentedly expanded scope in coverage and comment, since North-South relations have left a bit of breathing space.

As a result, our press institutions have reached a point where they can no longer remain captives to the clear-cut cold war rhetoric in their reporting. Taking advantage of such a transitional period, an outlandish interpretation of the press has come to the fore and has created a serious problem. This school of thought roundly denounces "any reports and press comments that are critical of the North" as the "products of cold war rhetoric." Of course, to a degree our press may not have been completely faithful to their own rules in covering and commenting on North-South relations. However, the unconditional denunciation of reports and press comments critical of the North's more problematic aspects as "the cold war rhetoric" or "anti-reunification stand," hiding behind the textbook interpretation of the press function that "the press should, as a matter of course, contribute to promoting reunification," is very dangerous and unfair.

It is not that appropriate debates or criticism cannot be made for reunification and reconciliation. For example, we cannot accept the logic that the liberals should not criticize or oppose the communists even on the supposition that we are now living in a reunified country.

In France, there is no law that bars French conservatives from criticizing the French Communist Party. Nor does the French Socialist Party abstain from criticizing the French Communist Party in practice.

This is precisely what is called freedom of press and freedom of criticism in democratic countries, and if reunifying the country means the shrinking of such freedoms of press and criticism, we want no part of it.

We hear that the persons in authority in North Korea and "civilian" personages, finding some of the South Korean press reports and a TV drama unpalatable, have taken issue with them. If this is the case, they can rebut them in writing, instead of warning that "such things will throw a wrench into North-South relations" or threatening "to withdraw the North's soccer teams." The North's reactions as such can only be understood as examples of their complete lack of understanding about the nature of the press run by the civilian sectors in a liberal democratic system.

To speak of distorted coverage, what else can rival the newspapers and broadcasts in the North that speak only for the partisan and factional interests as government-mouthpiece and as organs of a party? Do the newspapers and broadcasts in the North inform its masses of what is really happening in the outside world? Some debaters among ourselves, too, should free themselves from the shopworn bigotry of taking issue only with our side's criticism of the North by branding it as "cold war rhetoric" or "an anti-reunification view," while seeing nothing wrong in the insulting words that the North heaps on us. As a matter of course, our press should also redouble its sincere efforts to be fair in reporting the truth.

Government 'Ready' To Form Inter-Korean Council

SK2410091790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0907 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 24 (YONHAP)—South Korea is ready to set up an inter-Korean council for close consultations on international problems if North Korea enters the United Nations simultaneously, Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung said Wednesday. Choe, in a speech read by Deputy Foreign Minister Yu Chong-ha at a U.N. day ceremony in Seoul, said operation of the council would help the resolution of pending inter-Korean affairs and reunification.

He said the government was willing to discuss with the North matters concerning simultaneous entry by the two Koreas to the world body, but this did not necessarily mean that South Korea would reserve its right to determine its own policy. "We cannot keep the issue concerning our U.N. membership, on which we can exercise our own right of determination, bound by inter-Korean consultation indefinitely," Choe said. "Should we have to obtain consent from North Korea on that affair, it would just mean that we are giving the North the right to veto," stressed the top foreign policy maker.

Choe did not say when his government would finish consultation with the North or when it would formally apply for U.N. membership. He said China would find no reason and cause to consistently oppose South Korea's unilateral entry into the world body. "I think

China would not disregard the interests of the United Nations and the dominant opinion among member countries," Choe said.

Reporter's Travelogue Describes Pyongyang Visit

SK2210231790 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 20 Oct 90 p 3

[First part of a travelogue by reporter Min Pyong-uk: "Pyongyang Today"]

[Text] The fever of "national reunification" prevailing all over Pyongyang can be described as "frenzy."

Pyongyang citizens were given almost unlimited freedom to echo their loyalty to President Kim Il-song, leader Kim Chong-il, and the Workers' Party of Korea and their aspirations for "one Korea."

Of course, that is the "way of life" of human beings in Pyongyang.

I saw parental love and concerns, love between young men and women, popular songs with sad notes, and women's fashions. There were efforts for a better living in the future, desires for change, and a sign of change. During the short period of three days and four nights I was in Pyongyang to cover North-South High-Level Talks, I felt that the whole of living in Pyongyang seemed to be perfectly consistent with the single standardized slogan of "reunification."

At a banquet arranged by Yang Hyong-sop, speaker of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], in the Mokrangwan on the evening of 18 October after the premier talks, I met Mrs. Yo Yon-ku, daughter of Mr. Yo Un-hyong. She served as the deputy speaker of the SPA.

She said, "I crossed the 38th Parallel with my sister Won-ku, thanks to leader Kim Il-song's help, when Father asked" in July 1946. She was the only person who still used the standard Seoul accent among the people I met in Pyongyang.

She said, "I want to visit Seoul. There are many relatives and fellow alumni there. If possible, I would like to hear whether they are still alive."

She talked about her true feelings of missing her home in Seoul rather than the dull rhetoric of reunification I heard too often during my stay in Pyongyang.

She continued, "I went to Ehwa Women's University by crossing over the Ahyon Hill. Every morning, Ehwa Women's University and Yonsei University students used to cross over the hill together. At that time, my house was near at Huimun Middle School in Kyedong. I am already in my sixties."

Such sentimental reminiscences did not last long. Guides provided by the North side surrounded Deputy Speaker Yo and me as we were whispering to each other.

She said, "The fever of reunification should grow higher in the South to reunify the fatherland soon. The parliamentary talks should be convened, and aspirations for national reunification should grow. Thus, we should live well together in a reunified country."

Then, Deputy Speaker Yo talked about "the outrages of U.S. wretches" shortly after the liberation.

When we were going to say something different after speaking ill of the United States, guides pulled me by the arm and separated me from her, saying "Are you going to stop here? You had better think of the atmosphere of the banquet."

When I approached Deputy Speaker Yo after the banquet, she tightly held me by the hand and said, "I really have many things to talk about." She repeatedly adjusted her glasses with the other hand as if she could hardly hold back something to say.

When she accepted my request for her autograph, guides again surrounded us and the deputy speaker wrote her name, saying aloud, "I was told that if university students demand reunification, the police indiscriminately arrest them in the South. Such an unfair attitude does not help to achieve reunification."

At a banquet arranged by Choe Mun-son, chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee, at the Ongnyugwan on the evening of 17 October, I met Professor Sin Ku-hyon, 78, another defector to the North. This man, whose home village is Chinchon, North Chungchong Province, worked as a professor in the Korean Language and Literature Department of Kim Il-song University.

He graduated from Kyongsong Imperial University in 1940 and then worked as a teacher for four months in Chungang School. He said that he had come to the North "upon the calling of the great leader Kim Il-song."

As soon as he seated himself at a chair, he asked me, "When will student Yim Su-kyong be released?" He said, "A few days ago, the 43d graduation ceremony of Kim Il-song University was held. Student Su-kyong was conferred an honorary degree from the French Language and Literature Department."

Talking about Miss Yim, he often wiped away tears. Saying, "I cannot understand the South side's logic that anyone who violates the law is subject to punishment," he stressed that "the historic act of visiting the Republic to accomplish the cause of national reunification and pave the way for reunification should override the law."

Professor Sin was surely an advocate for the "Kim Il-songism."

He bitterly criticized the literature of the South, saying that it fails to describe the idea (by which he meant the chuche idea), which conforms to the tenor of the times, and to portray the appearance of the people who live in compliance with the demands of the chuche idea. He further criticized it as failing to interpret the classic literature well.

Contending that works of Choe Chi-won, Yi Kyu-po, Kim Si-sup, and Pak Chi-won should be evaluated from the perspective of socialism and interpreted within the framework of socialism, he said, "These works are correctly interpreted in the Republic, thanks to the teachings of the 'great' leader Kim Il-song and 'dear' leader Comrade Kim Chong-il." He concluded with the rhetoric of reunification, saying, "Reunification should be realized soon, and thus, the wrong interpretation of the Korean literature and its history should be corrected" (by which, of course, he meant those of the South).

Ordinary citizens also concluded everything with reunification and President Kim Il-song.

When a group of reporters visited the Potongmun women's skirt factory near the People's Palace of Culture, the talks site, approximately 30 female workers from their twenties to their fifties unanimously said, "Let us reunify the fatherland soon and live together" and "We live without anything to envy, thanks to the benevolence of the leader," and wept, singing the song "Our Wish Is Reunification" in chorus.

Comrade O Un-chu (when I used the term "Miss," she looked serious and asked me to call her "comrade"), 23, a restaurant worker of the Paekhwawon Guest House, said, "The leader has said that reunification will be certainly achieved in 1995" and unrestrainedly added that "I will never get married until reunification has been achieved and I will marry a young man in the South after reunification."

All functions to which our delegation was invited ended with the singing of the song "Our wish is reunification." The North's people seemed to be intoxicated with the fever of the chorus.

Along with the air that Pyongyang citizens breathe and the food they eat, the slogans "Reunification" and "Our wish is reunification" constituted the great part of their daily life.

Everyone, ranging from children in the junior class (a kindergarten is divided into two classes, the senior and junior classes) to old men in their seventies, talked about reunification with one accord.

Their version of reunification was completing socialism under the leadership of "leader Kim Il-song" and reunifying the fatherland into a socialist state in which the nation is equally well off.

Reporter's Travelogue Continues

SK2310063790 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
21 Oct 90 p 3

[Second part of a Travelogue by reporter Min Pyong-uk: "Pyongyang Today"]

[Text] "Whistling" is the name of a popular song in Pyongyang. It is said to be a work of Cho Ki-chon, a poet who is said to have written the epic "Mt Paektu" after having a few days of interviews with President Kim Il-song at the time that the People's Republic was founded.

"Whenever I passed by Poksun's house, I was so overcome with emotion that I whistled sad tunes without knowing what I was doing. Tweet... tweet.... No matter how often I see her, I still miss her."

To listen to such a "popular song" in Pyongyang, a song which is about warm and serious love, styled with a rapid Western beat, they say, was one of the surprises.

Has Pyongyang not been described as a closed-door society regimented with uniformity that burns and vents the people's desire only through a giant smokestack called "national reunification?" Has Pyongyang not been said to be a city where the individuals have no emotion at all and where only such revolutionary operas and revolutionary films as "Sea of Blood" and "The Flower Girl" take the stage amid such slogans as "Once the party makes its decisions, we just carry them out"?

I asked one of the guides: "How can such a song as "Whistling" be popular in Pyongyang, where the people are supposed to live only with a single determination to hasten the socialist revolution?"

He retorted brusquely: "Why... have you thought of Pyongyang as a city where no men live? Look, even a socialist society has everything."

He even went so far as to explain, without being asked: "In the evening, young couples in love gather along the banks of the Taedong and Potong Rivers, and promenading people sometimes see scenes that would make you blush."

I pursued the subject, on the assumption that it may be a sign of change, and he said in pitiful voice: "Parents and boys and girls live side by side in our society. All manner of human affairs can exist in any society and what is it that makes you so excited?" He then said to himself: "In South Korea, Pyongyang must be described as a place where people cannot live."

A similar thing was observed once again when a banquet at Mongnangwan (a banquet hall open only to high-ranking party cadres), which was arranged by Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, stretched into an entertainment program.

A 15-man rock group called Wangjesan Pop Orchestra (I wonder whether "rock group" is suitable or not, but the band was composed of such modern musical instruments as electric guitar) played some exciting pieces. It was followed by the appearance on the stage of female dancers who had most of their upper thighs exposed.

After this, they staged a puppet show entitled "Chunhyang and Mongnyong." It was a smart combination of our country's traditional dance and a robot dance that has recently caught up in West Europe, so arranged as to highlight in simple motion the most coquettish behavior of a young couple courting.

Of course, Mongnangwan was said to be completely off limits to the general public. However, what I saw during the banquet there provided me with a new opportunity of reassessing Pyongyang, which can show such things to the delegation and reporters from the South.

Then, is Pyongyang changing? Is it riding on the crest of the wave of reform, even slowly? Regrettably, our observation during our 3-night-4-day stay in Pyongyang was too short to draw conclusions.

One of the important reasons that prevented me from drawing conclusions was that the North side did not allow us any freedom at all during our stay and showed us only what they wanted us to see, constantly keeping us on a leash. On more than one occasion, I was tempted to believe that there was some freedom, but then shuddered at the sight of people completely reduced to political instruments in places where we had been taken.

I felt depressed at the Children's Palace decorated with a political slogan reading "We have nothing to envy from others," where we viewed the performance of the children and again while viewing the gymnastic performance by 50,000 Pyongyang students and children. Though the North side's guides praised it as the world's best performance, it appeared to be "a performance by the world's best-mechanized instruments" and sent a chill up my spine.

Boys and girls, who appeared to be 7 or 8, suddenly brought onto the center of stage dummy nuclear weapons while singing and dancing and shouted "We also love peace" and "Korea is one." Children we met in the Children's Palace unanimously asked us, "When is sister Su-kyong, the flower of reunification, going to be set free," with tears welling up in their eyes.

Even a 4-year-old toddler, after drawing a cat and a mouse, coolly said: "The mouse, representing No Tae-u, steals rice from people. No Tae-u is caudillo of South Korea."

The gymnastic performance sent greater chills up my spines. It was a ritual ceremony in which the participants collectively pledged loyalty to Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il, and the Workers' Party of Korea, solemnly vowing that they would do anything they are told to do by the party.

The participants in the gymnastic show, boys and girls from six to sixteen, pledged: "Let us accelerate the complete victory of socialism" by uniting under the slogan reading "Let us be prepared at all times to become the rear unit of communist construction" and "Live a long life in our house in the bosom of our party," together with "Father Marshal Kim Il-song."

A bit of change and freedom we were able to sense immediately disappeared the moment we were shown the chilling political propaganda scenes.

On the train heading for Kaesong after concluding our 3-day-4-night stay in Pyongyang, my guide enthusiastically stressed: "People in the North and South should pass along this road after reunification." Nevertheless, I was preoccupied with the children at the Children's Palace who shouted political slogans and with the shouts and applause that burst forth at the mention of Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il, and the WPK during the gymnastic performance in the Kim Il-song Stadium. The shouts and applause were so strong that they seemed to move the roof on the stadium.

Reporter on Kim Il-song 'Personality Cult'

SK2410010590 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Oct 90 p 2

[By staff reporter Kim Chang-yong]

[Text] High rises in North have neon signs atop like those in South Korea.

The signs are, however, for uninterrupted indoctrination, not for commercials or mere decorations. The North is not so open-handed with electricity consumption.

Stations alongside the Kaesong-Pyongyang railroad, local party chapter offices and big buildings in Pyongyang wear red-lettered slogans some of which are lit up at night.

Most slogans are dedicated to the honor of President Kim Il-song and his party, and others are designed to spur labor and construction.

Some of the slogans;

"Hurrah to the Great Leader Kim Il-sung," "(We) Wish for the Health and Long Life of Great Leader Kim Il-song," "Hurrah to the Glorious Workers' Party of Korea," "Let's Safeguard the Party Central Committee at the Cost of Our Lives," "The Party Decides, We Implement," and "Let's Create the Velocity of the '90s"

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a one-man state of Kim Il-song in reality.

All the people to which South Korean visitors got access spoke of Kim's legendary fighting against Japanese imperialists during their rule of the peninsula, his building of the Communist state, his "ardent commitment" to the welfare and happiness of the nation and his boundless affinity to the people.

"He is the greatest leader the Koreans have ever had. He saved the people from the yoke of Japan, won the independence of the nation, constructed it and enabled the people to enjoy high standards of eating, clothing and dwelling," says an Ongnyugwan noodle restaurant attendant, Pak Mi-Yong, 24.

Her remarks are echoed by North Koreans whatever their jobs—by train conductor Kim In-yong, 45, and such intellectuals as Profs. Chong Yun-sop of Kim Hyong-chik Educational College in Pyongyang and O In-son of Kim Il-song University.

On hearing a bit of praise, from visitors from Seoul, they make haste to reply that it has resulted from Kim's idea and guidance. "You speak of large roads here? They have been instructed by the great leader. Look at the spacious parks over there. So have they," guide O added.

The guides for the guests from Seoul who are tired of the North's personality cult ignore the South Koreans' sentiment and are eager to explain a flower named after the junior Kim in a mass game in the Kim Il-song Gymnasium in central Pyongyang.

Kim is the sole source of all values and all might with which he controled 20 million people for the past 45 years.

All achievements, whether big or small, have been schemed, checked and guided by Kim.

Monuments to Kim are gorgeously big and exorbitantly decorated while a potassium fertilizer plant in Sariwon, one of the North's development symbols, lags behind the level of any production facility in Yongdungpo, southern Seoul, or any other industrial complex in the South.

A narrator in the North's propaganda film said that Kim is so "warm" as to instruct hotel employees to relocate a bed inside from the window side in order that guests do not feel cold.

Signboards with gilt lines are hung in one or two rooms of Ongnyugwan, the Grand People's Study House, a giant library, and notable buildings that show Kim has dropped in there himself and so the rooms are usually closed to the general public.

Three pillars that keep the Kim deity system operating are the myths of continuous revolution, paradise and reunification.

North Koreans are trained to endure any suffering by recollecting Kim's spirit of revolution and his bitter experience in the course of his partisan struggle against Japanese rule.

Still effective is a slogan that says, "Just in the Way the Anti-Japanese Commandos Did," an exhortation for harder construction work.

The revolution myth further convinces the North Koreans of their grave mission to liberate the South from the hands of the "U.S. imperialists" and of their forced sense of superiority over South Koreans.

It further develops to call for responses in the South, believing that over 10 million South Koreans would comply with the North's action if Kim Il-song orders a revolution. In this context, the North demands a withdrawal of U.S. troops and their nuclear warheads.

North Koreans are also indoctrinated in a paradise myth.

They refuse cordial presents by South Koreans and say without fail that there is nothing that they do not have in the North "owing to the benevolent sun, Kim Il-song."

Introducing an obstetric hospital, a popular course on city tours for foreigners, the female narrator flatly billed newborn babies as "happy kids" only because they were born in the North Korean "paradise."

Kids drum up their happiness playing musical instruments at the Mangyondae Palace for Students and Pupils. Their slogan is "Nothing to Envy in the World."

The reunification myth is the last among the three pillars, introduced in indoctrination programs a few years ago apparently to divert the eye away from domestic problems and pressure from the outer world to open its society to inter-Korean issues.

Yim Su-kyong, a South Korean university co-ed jailed for an unauthorized visit to Pyongyang last year, has been beatified as an "apostle of reunification" and a typical South Korean who complied with the North's reunification policy.

Sports Match Seen as Path to Reconciliation

SK2310031990 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Oct 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Friendly N-S Sports Exchanges"]

[Text] We welcome the North Korean soccer contingent that has come to Seoul to hold a goodwill soccer rematch here today. The friendly soccer game in Seoul is the second round of an inter-Korean soccer exchange, a sort of revival of an old, friendly Seoul-Pyongyang (Kyongpyong) soccer series popular during the period of Japanese colonial rule over Korea.

In the first "unification soccer match" held in Pyongyang on Oct. 11, the North Korean eleven defeated the South Korean team 2:1 after coming from behind to outdo the visiting contingent. Regrettably, the Pyongyang friendly match was apparently impaired by the chief referee's doubtful ruling that gave a penalty kick to the home team in the dying minutes of the goodwill game.

Needless to say, the friendly sports exchange should be conducted fairly with little emphasis on which side wins or loses as the homogeneous Korean people, despite their territorial division against their will since the end of

World War II more than 45 years ago, badly need friendly exchanges in not only sports but also other fields between the two halves of the divided country.

In this regard, the referees for today's soccer event in Seoul are called upon to be thoroughly impartial in their judgment of the game, irrespective of which side is winning or losing, by applying all soccer rules most fairly so as to prevent the loser from complaining about their rulings.

In addition, we expect both sides to produce fruitful results in their sports talks in an attempt to send united all-Korea sports contingents to future international games, including the World Cup Table Tennis Championship in November and the 25th Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain in 1992.

Inter-Korean sports negotiations are now under way simultaneously with the North Korean soccer contingent's stay in Seoul. The 78-member soccer delegation from North Korea, including 18 officials, 38 men's and women's players and 22 news reporters, arrived here Sunday to participate in the second round of the inter-Korean soccer exchange.

Full-fledged sports negotiations resumed some six months after their April rupture rendered futile a bid to field a joint team to the Beijing Asiad, Sept. 22-Oct. 7. Both sides are agreed on the need to form all-Korea sports contingents to international events in principle. The problem is how to pick all-Korean players and officials and cope with procedural and substantial matters related to the formation of joint teams for dispatch to future international sports events.

Reports have it that the South is suggesting the selection of the best athletes and players according to their latest records and sporting capabilities while the North favors an equal or balanced footing with the South to the effect of creating a conciliatory and harmonious mood between the two parts of Korea.

In addition to the premiers' talks, the highest-ever government-to-government contacts, which recently proceeded to a second round, not only sports but also cultural exchanges have recently been undertaken by South and North Korea, encouraging movements to forge a favorable climate for reconciliation and a thaw to the icy confrontation between the two Koreas.

It is hoped in earnest that inter-Korean exchanges in sports and all other fields will be stepped up so as to bring about lasting peace on the Korean peninsula and eventually achieve all Korean's ardent desire of national reunification in the near future.

To this end, the mass media in both the South and the North are well advised to make joint efforts to cover news concerning all inter-Korean talks and exchanges more fairly and impartially, doing away with biased and distorted reporting in disfavor of the other side.

N. Soccer Delegation Attends Dinner, Tours

SK2210015390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0140 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 22 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korean soccer players, team officials and reporters began their second day in Seoul with light calisthenics and jogging early Monday morning. The players, looking well rested, were up and about from 7 a.m. All the visitors from the North, except for the male players, left two hours later for a tour of the Secret Garden Palace downtown Seoul.

The 78 North Koreans spent their first evening in South Korea feasting, talking and singing reunification songs at a 200-place welcome dinner after crossing one of the world's most heavily fortified borders in the truce village of Panmunjom. They are here for a return match against the South Korean team on Tuesday. The first goodwill match was played in Pyongyang on Oct. 11, with the North winning 2-to-1, reviving a tradition of friendly games between the South and North that was suspended 44 years ago, one year after Korea was divided.

Kim U-chung, chairman of the Seoul-based Korea Football Association and host of the dinner, greeted the North Koreans by saying, "I hope the reunification match will be the beginning of national reunification." Kim Yu-sun, North Korean sports minister and head of the delegation, thanked the people of Seoul for their warm welcome and asked everyone to make the soccer game "an opportunity to show the people around the world our will for reunification."

Some guests sang along with the choir and when they were urged to sing "Our Wish Is Reunification," a symbolic but sad tune remindful of national division, they rose from their seats and sang hand in hand.

Members of the women's teams, both short in experience, were heard encouraging each other, while the men's players chatted like old friends throughout the meal.

North Threatens To Break Off Soccer Games

SK2310054290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0522 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 23 (YONHAP)—North Korea is threatening to break off a promising round of soccer diplomacy because of complaints over security arrangements for players visiting the South for a match in Seoul. "The Northern soccer squad will complete its itinerary as scheduled since the South's soccer team did in Pyongyang, but it may be last time we do this," a spokesman for the North Korean team said Monday night.

He complained that non-sports personnel of South Korea had descended on the reconciliatory sports event, hampering the activities of North Koreans. Yun Myong-chan, a member of Standing Committee of the North

Korean Soccer Association, and one of the 78-member North Korean delegation, said he could not understand why so many guides were necessary for a soccer match and some of his players were so worried that they could hardly sleep.

Yi I-nam, a vice director general of North Korea's Physical Culture and Sports Guidance Commission, sarcastically noted that the hundreds of security guards in and around the hotel, where the North Koreans stay, showed that unemployment was rampant in South Korea. Yi said he had heard at home that the Agency for the National Security Planning had lost power, but was now convinced that the reverse was true.

Perturbed South Korean officials showed concern about the effect of the security imbroglio on inter-Korean relations. "Our stiff and out-of-date style of guarding the North Korean squads is likely to affect inter-Korean relations in the future. This stiff style should be changed soon and the government should make efforts to convert the depressed atmosphere into a festive mood," one official said. "Our style of guard and guidance is stiffer than that of the North," a South Korean participant in the Pyongyang match said. "It was smooth and so[illegible]n Pyongyang."

Direct Trade With North Considered Pivotal

SK2310061990 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Oct 90 p 8

[From the "News in Review" column by assistant economic editor Pak Chang-sok]

[Text] Last week, there were two most impressive events seen by the Korean people. One was North Korean strongman Kim Il-song having a face-to-face meeting with South Korean Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun and his company—the first time Kim has been seen on the South Korean television speaking with his natural voice. Kang was the first highest-ever official from the South to visit the northern half in about 40 years, at least publicly. Of particular note was the public declaration of the North Korean head of state's willingness to meet South Korea's President No Tae-u. The other event was Chinese and South Korean officials' signing an accord to open reciprocal trade offices, semi-governmental organs with consular functions.

On the surface, signs of change on the Korean peninsula are palpable everywhere. A North Korean soccer team is now in Seoul for a return exhibition match with its southern counterpart. Musicians and film stars from both long-hostile halves have been getting together without hesitation. The events involving two Koreas seem to form an encouraging pattern.

Despite the lack of tangible achievements in terms of substantive work, the premiers' talks appear to have gone well. Last week's second round of the premiers' meeting ended with a sole agreement to meet again in Seoul in December. As seen in the first talks, both sides were far apart in views on how to approach solving their differences. To put it simply, North Korea stuck to the preferential solving of political and military problems, against the Seoul side's demand for the discussion of easy-to-handle problems such as economic cooperation and humane exchanges.

Seoul's economic proposals were summarized as direct trade, joint investment, joint development of natural and tourism resources, and the opening of the two halves to free travel and communications.

Right now, it would be wise of northern side to turn its eyes to the outside world, particularly its long-time socialist allies now undergoing tremendous political and economic reform. Since the wind of perestroyka or "restructuring" swept East European continent, all East European socialist countries except Albania, mired for decades in communist stagnation, threw off their shackles and rushed to join the capitalist world. They all have come to establish official links with South Korea, a dramatic about-face from their previous politics of recognizing North Korea as the sole legitimate state on the Korean peninsula.

A most shocking event was the reunification of two Germanys. At long last, Germany is reborn as a powerful sovereign state of 78 million persons, marking the end of artificial separation. In a sense, "reunification" seems to be not a proper word to describe the German unity. Strictly speaking, East Germany melded into West Germany—in other words, the Eastern economic minor was absorbed into the Western economic giant.

What is noted here from the latest restructuring of the socialist bloc is that the Soviet Union and its communist allies have boldly discarded their political ideology they have held onto for 40 years, for the cause of solving bread-and-butter issues. The East is bankrupt and socialists have become second-class citizens in an international competitive society.

The game over ideological war between capitalists and socialist is already over. The remaining problem is only a matter of whether or not to boldly join the historic waves toward liberalization and openness. Basic to the promotion of cooperation and exchange is the direct dealing of merchandises. Direct trade between two Koreas is not considered difficult to implement since they have already been engaged in various forms of trade through intermediaries, although this has somewhat fluctuated depending on political motivations.

Since the Republic of Korea worked out a set of guidelines on inter-Korean economic cooperation in October in 1988, there were 58 cases of trade worth 22 million U.S. dollars last year and 56 cases worth 12 million dollars in the first nine months of this year. Officials analyzed that about 500 million dollars worth of North Korea's trade with Japan can be diverted into inter-Korean deals. Indirect trade is only beneficial to third country brokers.

In the just-ended premiers' talks in Pyongyang, the Seoul side declared its plan to import a certain amount of agricultural, fishery, raw materials from North Korea annually as a way of facilitating inter-Korean economic tieups. Subject to the import quota, unilaterally suggested by South Korea are anthracite coal briquets, frozen fish such as pollack and yellow corvina, herb medicines, corn, sesame, and red beans. This overture is worthy of note.

This time, North Korea needs to take note of South Korea's rapidly-growing trade with its socialist allies including the Soviet Union and China after Seoul's normalization of ties with them. A tally revealed that two-way trade would reach 4.8 billion dollars this year, up 17.2 percent over last year, and 8.2 billion dollars next year. In particular, trade between Seoul and Moscow is expected to soar to 10 billion dollars in 1995 and the exchange of trade offices between Seoul and Beijing would increase trade 9.4 percent to 3.5 billion dollars next year.

North Korean economic plight is worse than had been suspected. Both exports and imports have been drastically shrinking with those of last year down by 13 percent and 20 percent respectively over the preceding year. North Korea's exports last year stood at a meager 1.5 billion dollars, a level akin to the annual export turnover of a large trading company in South Korea. Pyongyang relies for 53 percent of its entire exports on the Soviet Union and 13 percent on China.

In order to put its near-bankrupt economy back on the right track as well as to end its international isolation, the northern side's promotion of economic tieup with the South is in order. More important this time is for the North to recognize the economic power of the South as the latter recognizes its military might.

Sharing the benefits of prosperity may no doubt make for a happier journey ahead for the two Koreas, who are of one blood. A phrase to be kept in mind is that history is offering the people an opportunity in which something can be changed for the better.

Further on Kang's Meeting With North Relative

SK2310070190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0627 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 23 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun reluctantly took time out from the whirlwind of his historic talks with his opposite number in North Korea last week to secretly shed a few tears.

Kang, 69, who was born in North Korea but fled to the South in 1945, was reunited with his younger sister, 65-year-old Kang Yong-sun, and her son Oct. 19, an aide revealed Monday. The aide, describing the encounter, said: "A woman who looked older than Kang came into the room and walked up to him. 'My brother,' she said. Kang looked at her closely and tears came to his eyes. His voice broke as he said, 'Are You Yong-sun?'"

Kang had not known if she was still alive and had never met his nephew, whose name was not revealed but who seemed to be in his 30s. The teary-eyed siblings talked non-stop during their 50-minute reunion, asking about family members unseen for 45 years, the events that make up their daily lives, and making up for the time lost to forced separation.

Kang's reunion with his sister was the magical realization of a dream shared by some 10 million Koreans, parents separated from their children, sisters from brothers, and husbands from wives by the division of Korea in 1945 and the fratricidal Korean war 1950-53. The South Korean prime minister, who is from Changsung in Northern Pyongan Province, had not heard any news of his sister since returning from an extended sojourn in the United States in 1975.

It was partly to help reunite separate families like his that Kang went to Pyongyang for the second round of prime minister's talks. He urged North Korea during the talks to arrange reunions, if not for everyone, at least for those aged 60 or more.

Unification Minister Hong Song-coul and Yim Tong-won, director of the Foreign Ministry's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, also met brothers and sisters during the trip. It was the second reunion for Hong and his 72-year-old elder sister, whom he saw in 1985 during reunions arranged by the Red Cross societies of the two sides. Yim, the South Korean spokesman during the inter-Korean talks, met his younger brother and sister.

South Korean officials are reluctant to openly talk about such personal moments in Pyongyang, feeling uneasy at the privilege of seeing long-lost relatives while, as delegation leaders, they have been unable to arrange others to be reunited. It was for this reason that South Korean delegation members had decided not to meet their relatives, even if North Korean officials made the arrangements. Pyongyang delegates had not met their kin while they were in Seoul in September, they reasoned.

North Korea said they would honor this decision, but during the Oct. 16-19 talks in Pyongyang they twice asked Kang and others to meet relatives. On Oct. 18, North Korean liaison officer Choe Pong-chun told the Seoul delegates that their relatives wanted to see them for "humanitarian reasons." It was around 1 a.m. on Oct. 19 when Prime Minister Kang finally gave in and agreed to see his sister, and soon after she walked into the Paekhwawon Guest House where he and the others from the South were staying.

No reporters or camera crews were called in, and the South Korean delegates intended to keep the meetings a well-guarded secret. But the news broke when a North

Korean reporter, in Seoul for Tuesday's friendly South-North Korean soccer game, leaked the story to a South Korean journalist.

The prime minister gave his sister a watch and few other tokens of remembrance before they parted, his aide said. "'Please take good care of my brother,' Kang Yong-sun repeatedly said as she was led out of the meeting by the prime minister's secretaries," he said. "'Take good care of the prime minister so that the country can be reunified soon,' the nephew said," he added.

Minister Kang's Visits to Relatives Criticized

SK2310055590 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Oct 90 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: "Revelation"]

[Text] It might well be understood if Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun and some of his party publicly met their relatives in Pyongyang in a rare chance on their trip to North Korea last week. It would appear more humanistic to have met their relatives than to have declined proposals for a reunion.

But such action deserves criticism from the public as the three delegates to the prime ministers' talks tried to keep the reunion a secret between a select number of South Koreans who accompanied them and the top North Koreans who arranged the meeting.

A top aide to the prime minister had categorically denied speculation by reporters in Pyongyang that Kang, National Unification Minister Hong Song-chol and IFANS head Yim Tong-won met their relatives left in the North.

"North Korean liaison officers offered reunions of families to our delegates two or three times. Minister Hong seemed inclined to accept the offer but was forced to give up the idea as Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun got angry," he earlier said.

Before their departure for Pyongyang, South Korean officials predicted that the North Korean officials might arrange family reunions with Seoul delegates "in order to appeal to human emotion." But they decided not to accept any such proposal.

Their aim was to avoid confusing the top government-level talks with the personal happening.

Prime Minister Kang, Unification Minister Hong and spokesman Yim, all of whom escaped from the North, are thought to have attempted not to disappoint other separated people in the South by making the most of their privileged status as southern delegates to the talks and meeting relatives.

Nonetheless, their reunion might have taken place with a complete lid placed against the feelers of South Korean reporters. They might be so naive as to believe that the North would keep it secret, observers said. It was claimed by North Korean newsmen now here in Seoul for the South-North friendly soccer match.

"North Koreans had pledged to keep it secret," Yi Chin murmured.

Kang Apologizes for Keeping Meeting Secret

SK2410072190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0701 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 24 (YONHAP)—Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun apologized on Tuesday for keeping his reunion with his sister in North Korea a secret.

At a dinner for officials and reporters who went to Pyongyang with him last week for the premiers' talks, Kang said he was sorry he had broken a promise to himself in meeting his younger sister, Kang Yong-soon, but he decided to see her to prevent "abuse of the situation by North Korean officials."

The prime minister, whose hometown is in North Korea, was reunited with his sister after 45 years separation, but he and other delegates, some of whom also met family members, decided to keep the reunions secret as some 10 million separated Koreans are unable to see their kith and kin.

"We were planning to disclose the family meetings once all the details from the inter-Korean talks had been handled," Kang said. The news was let out by a North Korean reporter in Seoul for the south-North soccer match.

'Provisional Agreement' Reached on 'Team Spirit'

SK2410062790 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 24 October 90 p 1

[Text] It has been learned that both the ROK and the United States have reached a provisional agreement to reduce the scale of the "Team Spirit" exercise to one-third of that of previous years or to conduct it only with the ROK Army and U.S. troops in Korea from 1991.

On 23 October, a government official stated that "unofficially, the United States conveyed its intention to conduct the 1991 'Team Spirit' exercise with only 50,000 troops without additional deployment or increase in the U.S. troops, a reduction from the 100,000-150,000 level of previous years. This is because a considerable number of troops of the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force on the U.S. mainland have been dispatched to the Middle East due to the situation in the Persian Gulf and because military expenditures are increasing with each passing day."

He also noted that our side, understanding the U.S. military situation and judging that such a step may help advance the North-South dialogue, agreed in principle with the United States.

He pointed out that he understands that "the U.S. side put forward this issue during the preliminary talks for the 22nd ROK-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting [SCM] held in Honolulu, Hawaii, on 20 October." He added that "the ROK side's position will be made clear during the general meeting of the SCM slated for 13-15 November in Washington, D.C., the United States."

In the meantime, an official in the Defense Ministry refused to comment on this, stating that he is not aware of this.

YONHAP: U.S. Envoy on Ties With North

SK2310122290 Seoul YONHAP in English 1207 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Kwangju, Korea, Oct. 23 (OANA-YONHAP)—U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Donald Gregg said Tuesday that improvement of relations between the United States and North Korea depends on Pyongyang's attitude toward inter-Korean dialogue. "The United States has stated in councilor-level contacts with North Korea that direct contacts between Seoul and Pyongyang are needed for peace and unification of the Korean peninsula," Gregg told a debating session through an interpreter.

The United States and North Korea have maintained contacts between their diplomats in Beijing this year with a view to bettering ties.

The U.S. Envoy said the U.S. pressure on the North for dialogue with the South has its limits and that Seoul should take initiative for dialogue with Pyongyang. Gregg also said North Korea has expressed hope for improving relations with the United States through various channels, including its ambassador to the United Nations, but that the improvement of U.S.-North Korea relations depends on the North's attitude toward dialogue with the South.

The debating session, held in the U.S. Cultural Center in this provincial capital South of Seoul, was also attended by German Ambassador to Korea Juergen Kleiner and Hungarian Ambassador to Korea Sandor Etre. Gregg also urged the North to take attitude toward recognizing the South and promoting exchanges rather than engaging in political propaganda.

Japanese Buying Mission Arrives in Seoul

SK2210081190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0659 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 22 (YONHAP)—A 163-member Japanese buying mission arrived in South Korea on Monday, a spokesman for the Trade and Industry Ministry said.

Led by Taiichiro Matsuo, an adviser to the general trade company Marubeni and Japan-side chairman of the Korea-Japan market council, the team will actively shop for electric and electronic goods, machinery, textiles, commodities and agricultural and fisheries products, the spokesman said.

The team, which will stay until Saturday, represents 82 firms and six government organs and will meet with businessmen from 504 companies in Seoul, Taegu, Changwon, Kumi and Yosu, he said.

South Korea's trade deficit with Japan expanded to 3.99 billion U.S. dollars in January-August and is expected to soar to around 5 billion dollars by the end of the year, its highest level since 5.2 billion dollars in 1987.

It is the first time since 1987 that a Japanese purchase mission has visited Korea. Japan promised President No Tae-u in may to send a trade mission to Korea.

Japans Kaifu Pledges Cooperation in Letter

SK2310093290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0904 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 23 (OANA-YONHAP)—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, in a personal letter to South Korean President No Tae-u, on Tuesday pledged to strengthen cooperative relations between Tokyo and Seoul, a presidential spokesman said. The letter was handed to No by Taiichiro Matsuo, chairman of the Japan-Korea market council and head of a Japanese buying team, during a courtesy call on the president, the spokesman said.

"The dispatch of the import promotion delegation is part of our steps for correcting the trade imbalance between South Korea and Japan agreed on between the two governments during your visit to Japan in May," Kaifu said in the letter. "The delegation also reflect our industrial circles' sincere hope and aspirations for further developing economic relations between the two nations."

"I hope that a new opportunity will be sought for expanding and developing trade between the two countries and solidarity of friendly and cooperative relations, which we have clearly witnessed in the wake of President No's visit to Japan, will be strengthened through the delegation's activities," the Japanese premier said.

Matsuo arrived in Seoul with the 163-member buying mission on Monday for six days of import negotiations.

No Calls on Japan To Redress Trade Imbalance

SK2310071490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0653 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 23 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u received leaders of a Japanese buying mission at the Presidential Office Tuesday and told them he wanted to see trade between Seoul and Tokyo balanced. No expressed concern that South Korea's trade deficit with Japan was almost 4 billion U.S. dollars for the first eight months and on course for a record by the end of the year.

"The trend is undesirable not only from an economic viewpoint but for overall relations between the two countries," No told Taiichiro Matsuo, chairman of the Korea-Japan Market Council and three other members of the 163-member mission, who paid a courtesy call on him. No called for Japan to redress the imbalance, saying balanced trade was the key to friendship and confidence between the two countries.

Korea's trade deficit with Japan topped 5.2 billion dollars in 1987, shrank to about 4 billion dollars last year and neared 4 billion dollars for the first eight months of this year. No also requested efforts to realize technology transfer from Tokyo to Seoul, saying complementary industrial cooperation would pay off for both sides. The Japanese delegation arrived Monday for six days of import negotiations.

Passenger Sea Routes Opened With Japan

SK2310033790 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Oct 90 p 8

[Text] Korean and Japanese maritime officials have agreed to open two passenger sea routes between the two countries—a car ferry service between Masan of Korea and Hakada of Japan and a speed passenger ship service between Masan and Izhara, the Korea Maritime and Port Administration said yesterday.

Details such as the opening time will be discussed later,a spokesman said.

The two sides also agreed to discuss later loading right of containerized cargoes by the ferry boat, Danno, of Japan on the sea route between Pusan and Kobe on grounds that it will affect existing container ship operators of Korea.

Korean officials explained that the loading rights of the Japanese ship will be discussed after Kukje Ferry joins the Korea-Japan Container Transport Agreement. Nonmembers of the agreement are prohibited from transporting containerized cargoes on the bilateral sea route.

Defense Minister Confers With Japanese General

SK2310033990 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Oct 90 p 3

[Text] Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku exchanged views yesterday with Gen. Taizo Terashima chairman of the Japanese Joint Staff Council, ways to improve military relations between Korea and Japan, according to the ministry.

The ministry said in a press release that Chairman Terashima arrived here last Saturday for a six-day visit at the invitation of Gen. Chong Ho-kun, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Gen. Terashima will meet with government and military leaders and inspect key military units and facilities during his stay here, the release said.

Moscow Reportedly Will Not Veto UN Application

SK2010010990 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] TOKYO (Yonhap)—The Soviet Union will not exercise its veto power if South Korea applies unilaterally for a seat in the United Nations, a high-ranking Soviet official said here Thursday.

Georgiy Kunadze, visiting head of the Department of Japanese and Korean Political Problems of the Soviet Institute of World Economy and International Relations, said he is confident that Moscow would not oppose the admission of South Korea to the world organization.

In an interview with the Asahi Shimbun, the Soviet official also said he can give credit to the report that China will not use its veto power to block the expected South Korean move.

Kunadze became the first Soviet official to make the remarks publicly, the paper said.

Commenting on the inter-Korean prime ministers' talks in Pyongyang, Kunadze said he does not expect that the talks will lead to a summit between Seoul and Pyongyang even though Kim Il-song seems to want one.

Editorial on Exchanging Trade Offices With PRC

SK2110033290 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Exchanging Trade Offices with China"]

[Text] South Korea and China yesterday agreed to open trade offices in each other's capitals "as soon as possible," an agreement that will pave the way for the establishment of full diplomatic relations. It signifies the latest in series of breakthroughs made by Seoul in improving relations with Eastern Europe and other socialist countries. And it came 20 days after South Korea established full diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union.

All that has come at a time when world attention is focused on this part of the globe, following the eclipse of the cold war era in Europe. And North Korea, one of China's close allies, seems to be edging, willingly or otherwise, out of its tight closing. In fact, the slow tempo with which Seoul and Beijing have been moving to evolve their relations is largely attributed to China's ties with Pyongyang.

Such a delicate point was well reflected in the nature of the trade offices the two sides will establish in each other's capitals. For example, personnel in each trade office will have no diplomatic privileges. However, North Koreans manning their trade representatives' offices in some Western countries are given such privileges.

Yesterday's agreement was signed by the representatives of the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. and the China Council for the Promotion of International trade, a gesture to give the upcoming trade offices an appearance of nongovernmental posts. Yet under the accord, the offices will issue visas and will be allowed to do the work of liaison and consultation on behalf of their governments.

These roles, albeit limited, which the offices can play, combined with their commercial-related functions, can mean significant progress in the two countries' relations. Each side can assign up to 20 persons to its office, including a commercial attache, who will be provided with safety and tax benefits for their purchase of daily necessities.

The offices will engage in negotiating an investment guarantee accord for their countries' business executives and firms interested in or seeking trade with each other's era. Such institutional guarantees should certainly facilitate the trade of the two countries, which have seen gradual increases in commerce in recent years. Korea's two-way trade with China rose from $1.6 billion in 1987 to $3.1 billion last year. In the first seven months of this year, the figure was $1.9 billion. From now on, a more meticulous approach is required to bring all of these institutional beginnings to fruition for the benefit of both sides.

Trade With East Bloc To Grow 70 Percent in 1991

SK2110024490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Oct 90 p 6

[Text] Two-way trade volume between Korea and Communist countries, boosted by the government's policy of closer ties with Communist nations, will likely reach $8.2 billion next year, up 70 percent from this year's projected $4.8 billion, the International Private Economic Council of Korea (IPECK) said yesterday.

Forecasting Korea's trade with Communist countries based on recent IMF (International Monetary Fund) data, the IPECK predicted Korea's trade with Communist countries will increase 17.2 percent from $4,130 million last year to $4,480 million this year.

The two-way trade is likely to soar to $8.2 billion in 1991, up 69.3 percent from 1990, thanks to normalized diplomatic ties between Korea and the Soviet Union, and Communist nations' growing demands for consumer goods, it said.

Korea's trade with the Soviet Union saw an annual average increase of 70 percent during the 1987-1989 period, but the growth rate is likely to slow to 50 percent this year mainly owing to the Soviet delay in payments for some of its imported commodities, the council said.

During the first seven months of this year, Korea exported $229 million worth of goods to the Soviet Union and imported commodities worth $187 million.

The nation's trade with the Soviet Union as tallied at $600 million last year, $290 million in 1988, and $200 million in 1987.

Korea's major items shipped to the Soviet Union are textiles, electronics appliances and parts plus steel products, and its chief import goods are agro-fishery products, coal and lumber.

In particular, the Soviet Union is increasing imports of soaps, toothpastes, and shoes from Korea, reflecting insufficient local supply of daily necessities.

Meanwhile, Korea has been making a strong push for the importation of crude oil from the Soviet Union in an attempt to solve probable problems caused by the prolonged Gulf crisis, the IPECK said.

The two-way trade between Korea and the Soviet Union is expected to reach some $10 billion in 1995, representing an 11-fold increase over the $900 million projected for this year, it said.

The IPECK also forecast that Korea's trade with East European countries will expand from $744 million in 1990 to $1,200 million next year.

Korea's trade with Yugoslavia and Hungary is expected to see an annual increase of 50-60 percent each in the years to come thanks to the Communist nations' market-oriented policy.

However, Korea's trade with Poland is unlikely to expand further in the next few years unless the uneasy political and economic situation in Poland is settled, it said.

During the first eight months of the year, Korea imported $110 million worth of goods from East European countries and exported $303 million for a two-way trade of $413 million.

Korea's trade with East European nations (Unit: $ million)

	1988	1989	Jan-Aug of 1990
Exports (Increase, %)	126(22.7)	271(115.6)	303(118.3)
Imports (Increase, %)	89(93.3)	118(31.9)	110(25.8)
Total	215(45.3)	389(80.8)	413(82.6)

Korea's trade with Soviet Union

	1987	1988	1989	Jan-July of 1990
Exports (Increase, %)	67	112 (67.2)	208 (86.2)	229 (663.3)
Imports (Increase, %)	133	178 (33.9)	392 (119.7)	187 (-12.2)
Total	200	290 (45.0)	600 (106.8)	416 (71.2)

EC Offers To Back ROK in Uruguay Round

SK2410020990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0153 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Brussels, Oct. 23 (OANA-YONHAP)—The European Community has offered to cut a deal with South Korea on the Uruguay round trade talks, promising to back Korea's NTC (non-trade concerns) list in exchange for support for its farm subsidy reduction plan. Ray Macsharry, EC commissioner for agriculture and rural development, told visiting Korean lawmakers Tuesday that the community could not possibly accept demands to reduce its farm export subsidy by 90 percent during the next 10 years.

If Korea does not object to the EC stance, then the EC is willing to support Korea's NTC list, which enumerates products to be excluded from market liberalization. Korea hopes to strike rice, barley, beef and some 12 other products from farm market opening, and EC members, especially France and Germany, oppose demands, led by the United States, to lower subsidies by 90 percent.

Macsharry's remarks reflect renewed efforts to fight the tough negotiators in the Uruguay Round, shifting from opposition to Korea's NTC list. Korean Government representatives to the global trade group will hold negotiations with EC officials to seek ways to support each other in the farm market talks, said the Korean visitors, led by Former Trade and Industry Minister Han Sung-su.

The EC has gradually reduced its export support fund since 1986, the commissioner said, and the European nations cannot compromise further on the 30-percent reduction they are proposing. Agriculture and trade ministers are to meet Friday to try for an agreement on the EC proposal for farm subsidy cuts to be submitted to GATT.

Ministry To Close Interrogation Detachment

SK2310034590 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku testified before the National Assembly yesterday that the Ministry will close the interrogation detachment in Sobinggo-tong of the Defense Security Command where civilians have often been questioned by the top military intelligence agency, by the end of this year.

It was among several measures to reform the DSC which has come under fire for its surveillance of 1,300 civilians following the disclosure of such activity by an Army deserter assigned to the DSC.

Minister Yi told the meeting of the Assembly Defense Committee that the ministry will reform and trim the DSC, by absorbing several offices and functions. The manpower at the DSC will also be cut, said Minister Yi, who replaced Yi Sang-hun. Yi was dismissed following the disclosure of the alleged DSC's abuse of civil rights.

Yi said that access to government offices and "civil organizations" by DSC agents will be allowed "on inevitable occasions" with prior permissions from the heads of the organizations.

The former Army chief of staff said that the military will refrain from collecting information regarding civilians and conducting investigation of them.

For that end, DSC branches in the lower military units will be integrated into those in the division-level units, said Yi.

However, Minister Yi made it clear that the ministry will not scale down the original functions of the DSC against espionage activities in the military.

He testified that the ministry will have a specific unit under the direct control of the defense minister inspect the DSC. He said the minister will force the commander of the DSC to report to the minister about key activities and projects in order to reinforce his control of the agency.

The Defense Committee meeting proceeded with the presence of members of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party only, as opposition members have boycotted the Assembly activities for more than three months.

In the meantime, the ministry said that Lt. Col. Kim Yong-song of the DSC has been arrested on charges of losing military materials and his "negligence of duties." Investigation of him is under way, he added.

Private Yun Sok-yang assigned to the DSC deserted the Army last month, carrying cassette tapes and other materials concerning the DSC's surveillance of 1,300 civilians, including political leaders of the ruling and opposition parties, and revealed them during a press conference early this month.

Col. U Chong-il, chief of counter-intelligence department of the DSC, and another major, then duty officer, were referred to a military court for disciplinary measure.

Plans To Overhaul Army Intelligence Unit Viewed

SK2410004790 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Oct 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Defense Security Command Reform Plan"]

[Text] The national defense authorities have revealed a plan to overhaul the Defense Security Command [DSC], keynoted by a curtailment of structure and functions with a view to keeping it from abusing its power especially against civilians. The DSC has come under fire for its surveillance of some 1,300 civilians including politicians and dissidents.

The plan, disclosed by Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku in his testimony at the National Assembly Defense Committee Monday, indicates that the government will close down by the end of this year the Sobinggo branch office, the DSC detachment notorious for its harsh investigation of civilians, including their torture.

The newly-appointed minister, who replaced his predecessor Yi Sang-hun in connection with the recent divulgence of the DSC's political surveillance, further said that the government will undertake an overall reform of the DSC, including the reduction of branch offices and their functions as well as their manpower.

The government reform measures came in response to the opposition parties' demand that the DSC be dissolved, as a means of preventing military intervention in politics and the abuse of military power notably against civilians.

The revealed government plan, no doubt, is commensurate with the public expectation that the security command needs to devote itself to its original functions of anti-crime and espionage activities committed by elements of concern to the Armed Forces.

Defense Minister Yi assured in this connection that the command would refrain from collecting information regarding civilians and conducting investigations of them. He added nonetheless that the DSC agents will be allowed access to public and civilian organizations only to investigate matters related to defense industrial firms, to conduct counter-infiltration operations and to do security checks. Even for this, they will be required to get prior permission from the heads of the organizations concerned, the minister stressed.

However, in view of the fact that the DSC will remain a most powerful organ as ever, it is doubtful that the "prior permission" from the heads of the civil organizations will be applicable to the letter, granting that there has been always an "invisible hand" that has forced civilians to follow their dictates against their will.

Minister Yi's statement that the command will be placed under the direct control of the defense minister to keep it from committing wrongdoings is appropriate. Yet, more important are genuine changes in the posture of the DSC to remain free from the government and maintain political neutrality.

The DSC, along with the other power organ, the Agency of National Security planning, have been two-pronged pawns of the government for the protection and maintenance of its power. The two organs allegedly spearheaded political maneuverings particularly during presidential and parliamentary elections in the past.

Despite persisting demands for the clarification of the DSC's past practices with regard to civilians, the minister and other officials have so far failed to meet these requests. This runs counter to the belief that a thorough reform will take place only after a thorough reflection on the past.

Minister Yi's disclosure that a few persons in the DSC were punished in connection with the DSC scandal is critically assessed as being not for their surveillance of civilians but for negligence of their duties by losing military documents.

Construction, Home Ministries To Be Restructured

SK2310040390 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Oct 90 p 2

[Text] The organization and the function of the Central Anti-Calamity Headquarters will be taken away from the Construction Ministry and transferred to the Home Ministry as part of the government's plans to restructure the boundaries of public agencies, Government Administration Minister Yi Yun-taek said yesterday.

The headquarters have responsibility for mapping out contingency plans for all natural disasters and implementing restoration work.

The management of water resources, checks of tapped-water quality and sewage facilities will be conducted by the newly established Environmental Ministry.

The Construction Ministry in the past designated areas for preservation and managed water resources and sewage facilities while the Health-Social Affairs Ministry was in charge of managing and examining the quality of tapped water.

The Construction Ministry will further secede its responsibility over the construction of industrial ports, management of public parks and parking lots to the Office of Maritime and Port Administration, Home Ministry and Transportation Ministry, respectively, Yi said.

The supervision of real estate dealers, so far exercised by the Home Ministry, will be conducted by the Construction Ministry.

The Korea Horse Affairs Association will fall under the Sports Ministry which has claimed control of the state-financed corporation.

The Agriculture-Forestry-Fisheries Ministry has managed the association that oversees horse racing, a lucrative business with an annual turnover of 450 billion won on the ground that it also raises horses.

Public libraries will come under control of the Culture Ministry.

Kim Chung-wi Resigns Over 'Thorny' Statements

SK2410073390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0706 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Rep. Kim Chung-wi, head of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party's [DLP] Seoul chapter, handed in his resignation late Tuesday afternoon in connection with a recent verbal attack on party Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam. Kim, a two-term lawmaker, told DLP Secretary-General Pak Chun-pyong he held himself responsible for stirring up trouble in the party with the attack.

He accused the executive chairman during a party caucus Monday of "falling to his knees" by visiting party for Peace and Democracy President Kim Tae-chung during his hunger strike. "A person who holds talks with the opposition on a whim is not fit to lead the country," Kim had said.

The lawmaker later apologized for the remarks but showed up the next day with his resignation. Pak said President No Tae-u was likely to accept Kim's resignation, although a party member does have the right to criticize party management. Kim's thorny statements were "out of line" and his resignation would help restore order in the party, Pak said.

Kim Tae-chung Calls Seoul's Stand 'Flunkeyism'

SK2310093390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0931 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 23 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung's Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) has accused the government of having an "irresponsible" attitude toward Japan's move to send Self-Defense Force troops to the Persian Gulf. In the first staff meeting since Kim's 13-day hunger strike, party members objected to the Japanese move and resolved to urge the government to take countermeasures.

PPD spokesman Kim Tae-sik said: "Japan is considering sending its forces in violation of its peace constitution. China and the Philippines have officially expressed objection to the Japanese move, but here in Korea the foreign minister voiced concern in a meeting with reporters. "The government's attitude smacks of flunkeyism and is irresponsible. We have decided to urge the government to sincerely take countermeasures."

Commenting on President No Tae-u's announcement Monday that a police agency would be set up to improve law enforcement, he said: "Expansion of the police institution will do no good for the people's livelihood and social security as long as it is not meant for neutralization of the police. It will only mean that we are heading for a police state."

To establish a police image acceptable to the public, the law on police neutralization should be enacted as agreed by the three opposition parties, before two merged into No's ruling party in January, the spokesman said.

Asked to comment on Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun's reunion with his sister in Pyongyang Oct. 16-19, Kim said Kang should apologize for having initially denied the reunion. News of Kang's reunion was broken Monday by a North Korean reporter in Seoul to cover the inter-Korean soccer match.

Negotiations on Local Party Nominations Slowed

SK2310083690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0750 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 23 (YONHAP)—Negotiations concerning party nominations in local elections have hit a snag and there is a gap in positions on a meeting between President No Tae-u and opposition leader Kim Tae-chung. The meeting between No, head of the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), and Kim, head of the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), had been expected next week.

The ruling camp said the meeting should be held after all pending issues are resolved by the floor leaders of the two parties and after the PPD returns to the National Assembly. The PPD says the meeting should be held first to settle political problems and the return should come later.

DLP floor leader Kim Yun-hwan said Tuesday a meeting was impossible unless all political problems were resolved by the floor leaders, the position held by the President's Office. Kim said a meeting was possible only after the PPD had returned to the National Assembly.

All 70 PPD lawmakers resigned in July, demanding that the DLP agree to full and immediate implementation of local autonomy and three other conditions.

The No-Kim meeting should confirm solutions drawn up in the floor leaders' meeting, he said. Floor leader Kim said his party was firm that political parties should not put up candidates for seats on local councils smaller than special cities and provinces. The PPD is just as adamant that political parties should be allowed to recommend candidates in all local elections.

A top PPD official said return to the assembly should come after No and Kim settle all pending issues in one lump.

No will meet Wednesday morning with his no. 2 in the party, executive chairman Kim Yong-sam, and other leaders to discuss ways to normalize politics.

Democratic Party Not To Return To Assembly

SK2310073290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0708 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Seoul, Oct. 23 (YONHAP)—The eight-seat Democratic Party has decided not to join its big brother in the opposition, the Party for Peace and Democracy, in returning to the National Assembly.

The eight lawmakers, meeting in a restaurant to discuss the situation on Monday evening, decided that the ruling party's guarantee to implement local autonomy was not enough for them to withdraw their resignations. "Nothing is changed in our view. Our return to the assembly is impossible unless the ruling party accepts our demand for general elections. The present situation is quite unchanged from July, when we quit parliament," party spokesman Chang Sok-hwa said after the meeting.

Party president Yi Ki-taek threatened to resign as party head if Kim's opposition party returns to the National Assembly. [passage ommited]

Bank of Korea Head Predicts Economic Growth

SK2210042290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0235 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 22 (YONHAP)—The governor of the Bank of Korea predicted Monday that South Korea will suffer a current account deficit of 1.7 billion U.S. dollars this year and that the economy will expand 8.8 percent in real terms, contrary to earlier expectations.

Kim Kun told a quarterly conference of top managers of the Central Bank that sluggish exports and rising oil prices have upset forecasts.

A first-half deficit of 1.57 billion dollars was cut to 650 million dollars for the first three quarters by surpluses in July-September, Kim said.

He said the Persian Gulf crisis and an economic slowdown in industrialized countries forced the bank to amend its June prediction of 9-percent growth, but an unexpected increase in facility investment was a sign that economic growth would still be solid, Kim said.

He said soaring international crude prices were exerting heavy inflationary pressure, and cautioned currency controls may be imperiled in the fourth quarter because government spending increased during implementation of the supplementary budget.

He called on the government to postpone spending and suppress credits in the private sector.

Kim urged a tight check on loans lest they boost consumption and financial support for small businesses struggling to absorb the shock of oil price increases.

Imported Research Software Exempted From Tariffs

SK2310065890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0642 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 23 (YONHAP)—High-tech software imported for research and development and industrial use is now exempt from tariffs, the Science and Technology Ministry said Tuesday. The ministry said Article 17 of the enforcement regulations of the customs law had been revised in consultation with the Finance Ministry to eliminate the 13 percent tariff on the software.

Under ministry guidelines on software tariff exemption, state-financed and private research institutes may import high-tech software for non-sales purposes duty free. However, the exemption will not apply to software which has been developed in the nation or which is introduced for sale.

Burma

Security Forces Raid Mandalay Monestery 23 Oct

BK2310150590 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Following the issuance of Order 6/90 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], security forces this morning raided and searched monastic buildings inside New Masoyein Monastery and Old Masoyein Monastery where the illegal Mandalay Lay-Pyin Lay-Yat Sangha Samaggi Union was located and operating illegally.

The security units seized illegal publications published by Burma Communist Party underground operatives [BCP UG's] and antigovernment literature and detained some persons in connection with the publications. Arrangements are being made to take action against these persons. During the raid on 17 monastic buildings inside the New Masoyein Monastery, the security units arrested U Laba alias U Wayama, a member of the Lay-pyin Lay-Yat Sangha Samaggi Union, who is engaged in political activities not in accordance with Buddhism. They also seized from the Dhamma Thanthazat building, the Dhamma Dippa building, and the Dhamma Thiragu building inside the compound of New Masoyein Monastery politically subversive literature and journals published by BCP UG's, nine .303 cartridges, 46 jingalees [projectiles made from bicycle spokes], one pair of binoculars, two small typewriters, two large typewriters, and one copying machine

During the raid on 15 buildings inside the compound of the Old Masoyein Monastery, the security units also seized political documents and journals that do not befit Buddhism published by U Kunthala, member of Lay-pyin Lay-Yat Sangha Samaggi Union; two swords; two daggers; one metal chain with a wooden handle; various publications; two copying machines; two large typewriters; one small typewriter; 20 nuts used in bicycles; one T-shirt bearing the letters Ba-Ka-Tha [Burmese alphabet for All-Burma Students Union] on the front and ABSDF [All-Burma Students Democratic Front] on the back; one T-shirt bearing a picture of the fighting peacock; 27 sheets of stencil paper; eight packets of new paper; five badges bearing the emblem of the students union; one paper cutter for cutting pictures; 15 political books; six 9-mm cartridges which had been buried underground; 19 .303 cartridges; and 150 jingalees. They also arrested one man and three women.

Our security units have surrounded but not raided other monasteries where illegal organizations are located and from which they are operating—the Gwacho, Mogaung, Tilin, Pagan, Kinnagan, Sagu, Taungthaman, and Wegawadi monasteries in Mandalay Southwest Township and the Myadaung Monastery in Mandalay Southeast Township.

Contrary to the false news carried by some foreign broadcasting stations, life in the city remains normal while action is being taken against certain illegal monastic organizations.

Military Says Crackdown 'Fully Justified'

BK2410091990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0858 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Rangoon, Oct 24 (AFP)—Burma's military authorities defended Wednesday their crackdown against anti-government Buddhist monks, describing it through the official WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY newspaper as fully justified.

The newspaper accused the monks of taking part in a plot by the outlawed Burma Communist Party (BCP) to overthrow the military government, which seized power two years ago. The evidence found during raids when soldiers swooped on temples in the central city of Mandalay making an unspecified number of arrests shows the action was "more than justified," the WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY said in an editorial.

"What has been laid bare for all to see is nothing less than a vicious conspiracy engineered by the Burma Comunist Party (BCP)," the editorial said.

In a separate article, the newspaper also deplored "exaggerated" foreign media reports on both the crackdown and the boycott of the military by dissident monks which led to it. "Only a handful of members of the sangha (clergy)" were involved in the boycott which saw monks refusing to accept alms from soldiers or conduct ceremonies for military families, the WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY said in the article signed by "Myanmar (Burma) citizen."

The article blamed "malicious and unscrupulous persons" for reporting the incidents in such a way as to "make the people think that all the members of the sangha took part in the boycott." Among the more than 300,000 monks and nuns of Burma, a country where 85 per cent of a population of 41 million is Buddhist, "only a few hundred" had taken part in the anti-government protest, the newspaper said.

The boycott occurred after soldiers were accused of killing four people, two yong monks and two students, during a demonstration in Mandalay. The military government, or State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) as it is formally called has, however, said nobody was killed on that occasion.

SLORC Chairman General Saw Maung last week told the rebellious monks to end their boycott by Saturday night and later issued orders abolishing illegal monk unions and conferring martial law powers on commanders of 10 military regions.

"It is shocking indeed to learn that unlawful organizations such as these should exist among the sangha community," the editorial in the WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY said. The organizations, it said, had been "essentially active for the furtherance of political purposes." Their members had "been discovered to be disturbing the rule of law and the maintenance of peace and tranquility through threat, coercion and strikes against the state," according to the state-run newspaper.

The WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY said there was "irrefutable evidence" that the boycott had been led by a monk identified as U Karkiya, who had been "working directly under a BCP Central Executive Committee member Bo Kyin Maung."

The newspaper reported that as of Tuesday 10 Mandalay monasteries known to be politically active remained to be searched.

The SLORC seized power to end nationwide demonstrations and strikes staged to press for the end of an earlier military-dominated regime in the Southeast Asian nation.

Toungoo Monks Join Pledge To End Boycott

BK2310150790 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Monks from some monasteries in Toungoo have signed a pledge in support of the agreement by monks belonging to the Lay-pyin Lay-yat Sangha Sammagi headquarters of Mandalay to end their religious boycott.

From midnight on 20 October, when Order 6/90 by the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] became effective, until 1500 today, a total of 46 monks from 43 monasteries—including Satu Bonmika Thadipahtan Yeiktha Monastery, Sepin Sartintaik Monastery, Arthawkayon Monastery, Yadana Manaung Monastery, Dhamma Sariya Tekatho Sartintaik Monastery—signed a pledge in support of the action by some monks in Mandalay who signed a pledge to end the religious boycott. The pledge was signed in the presence of seven senior abbots including State Sangha Wunsaung Sayadaw Badanta Sandithara and Pegu Division Sangha Nayaka Secretary Badanta Tandawuntha at the Laygyundauk Sartintaik Monastery.

Saw Maung Continues Trip to Mandalay, Myitkyina

BK2310154390 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Senior General Saw Maung, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, and his entourage paid their respects and presented gold leaf to the Maha Muni Buddha Image at 0820 today in Mandalay. After signing the visitors book, Senior General Saw Maung presented a cash donation for the image. After paying their respects to the image, Senior General Saw Maung and his entourage warmly greeted the pilgrims. [passage omitted]

At 0910 Senior General Saw Maung and his entourage left Mandalay by aircraft and arrived in Myintkyina in Kachin State at 1020. Senior General Saw Maung and his entourage were welcomed by Major General Kyaw Ba, commander of the Northern Military Command and chairman of Kachin State Law and Order Restoration Council, and other senior military officials, local authorities, and local people. [passage omitted]

At Malika Hall of the Northern Military Command Headquarters, Major General Kyaw Ba briefed Senior General Saw Maung and his entourage on the local situation, the progress of construction projects in the state, border region development projects, and military operations. In his meeting with Major General Kyaw Ba, tactical operations commander Colonel Maung Bo, and commanding officers, Senior General Saw Maung called on them to work for the prevalence of law and order and the elimination of insurgency.

Following the meeting, Senior General Saw Maung and his entourage paid their respects to members of the Township Sangha Nayaka Committee led by U Kawdinnya, chairman of the Kachin State Sangha Nayaka Committee, and abbots in the townships at Malika Hall. Wuntho Sayadaw U Ketu Mala, member of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee, delivered a sermon.

After presenting gifts to senior abbots, Senior General Saw Maung and his entourage participated in a libation ceremony. Later, Senior General Saw Maung and his entourage inspected construction projects in Myitkyina. Senior General Saw Maung and his entourage left Myitkyina by plane at 1345 for Heho in the Shan State.

Insurgents Surrender at Army Camps 1-10 Sep

BK2110102690 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] People belonging to insurgent organizations who have come to see their wrongdoing have been surrendering together with arms and ammunition at different Army camps. Accordingly, the following surrenders were reported between 1 and 10 September 1990:

In the Southeast Military Command region, Private Hla Soe of the NMSP [New Mon State Party] Mon insurgent guerrilla unit surrendered at Kamawet camp. Corporal Ajan of the Thanbyuzayat Township Unit surrendered together with an AK automatic rifle at (Wegali) camp. Pvt. Johnny of the insurgent KNU's [Karen National Union] 1st Battalion gave himself up at Thaton garrison.

In the Northern Military Command region, Pvt. Win Myint of the insurgent Kachin Independence Army's [KIA's] 1st Battalion surrendered at (Nawng Phone Maw) camp. Pvt. Pya Thu Lay of the 3d Battalion surrendered at (Wasawng) camp. Pvt. Nana of the 253d Battalion and Pvt. Ngwe Lwan of the 3d Battalion gave themselves up with an M-21 rifle at Waingmaw camp. Pvt. Bilai of the 1st Battalion surrendered at (Hora Patu) camp.

In the Eastern Military Command region, Pvt. Than Pe of the insurgent SURA [Shan United Revolutionary Army] surrendered at Mawkmai camp. Pvts. Lan Sinni and Lan Thein Tin gave themselves up at Langhko. Lance Corporal Aik Hla and Pvt. Aik Lian, alias Min Lwin, surrendered with an M-16 at (Mong Wan).

In the Northeast Military Command region, Pvt. Zau Tawng of the National Democratic Front's 161st Battalion surrendered with an M-21 automatic rifle at (Mo Yaw).

In the Southern Military Command, Pvt. Soe Myint of the insurgent KNU's 3d Brigade gave himself up with a grenade at (Baw Netgyi).

It is reported that those who have returned to the legal fold after realizing the truth are being warmly received by the responsible officials at the military camps.

More Surrender 11-16 Sep

BK2110155490 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] People belonging to insurgent organizations who have come to see their wrongdoing have been surrendering together with arms and ammunition at different army camps. Accordingly, the following surrenders were reported between 11 and 16 September 1990:

In the Northern Military Command region, Pvts. Sein Win, Myint Win, and Thein Zaw of the insurgent KIA's Central Headquarters surrendered at (Orabum) camp. Pvt. Tin Maung of 254th Battalion surrendered with one M-21 rifle at (Parcho) camp. Pvts. Awah, Maung Sann, and Aung Naing of the 1st Battalion surrendered at (Baung Chaukyan) camp. Pvt. Kaung Nyunt of ABSDF [All-Burma Students Democratic Front] 701st Battalion gave himself up at (Lwemar) camp.

In the Eastern Military Command region, Pvts. Pan Saing alias Tun Aung, Hin Sein, Pan Kya, Aung Tun, An Sein, Paik Kyan, and Kawei Ta of the insurgent SURA surrendered at Mong Hsat camp together with two M-21 rifles, three M-22 automatic rifles, one local made gun, and two M-16 automatic rifles.

In the Southeast Military Command region, clerk Daw Than Myint of the Burma Communist Party Tenessarium Regional Command, surrendered at Mergui Garrison. Pvt. Myo Naing alias Min Ohn of ABSDF 201st Battalion surrendered at Mergui Garrison. Pvt. Aung Myint of the insurgent Karen National Union's [KNU's] 6th Company of 10th Battalion gave himself up at (Wei Thaik) garrison with one AK-7 assault rifle.

In the Southern Military Command, Pvt. Myint Thein alias Pyan Hlwar of the insurgent KNU's 9th Brigade gave himself up at Shwegyin garrison.

It is reported that those who have returned to the legal fold after realizing the truth are being warmly received by the responsible officials at the military camps.

More Surrender 26-30 Sep

BK2310095790 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] More members of various insurgent organizations who have come to realize their wrongdoing have been surrendering at various military garrisons with assorted weapons and ammunition. The following surrenders took place between 26 and 30 September:

Eastern Military Command: Pvt. Tun Naing alias Myint U of the 601st Battalion of the ABSDF insurgent organization surrendered at Taunggyi garrison through the township law and order restoration council.

Southeast Military Command: Pvt. Nwe Soe from the Tenasserim District military region of the BCP surrendered with one AK-47 and a carbine at Sin-o garrison. Pvt. Thaung Ngwe from the KNU 7th Battalion surrendered at Yebyu garrison, while Pvt. Aung Kyaw U from the 206th ABSDF Battalion surrendered at Moulmein garrison through Thirimyaing Ward Law and Order Restoration Council in Moulmein. Platoon commander San Tin and Pvt. Tin U from a guerrilla unit of the New Mon State Party [NMSP] surrendered at Kamawet garrison.

Northern Military Command: Pvt. Gin Hkat Man of the 254th Battalion of the KIA surrendered with an M-21 assault rifle at Bhamo garrison, while Pvt. Tun Aung alias Saing Nyein surrendered at Dao Phon Yang garrison and Pvts. Maung Pya and Aung Maung from the 1st Battalion surrendered with two M-21 assault rifles at Pajao garrison. Meanwhile, Pvts. Aung Lay and Than Tun from the 254th Battalion surrendered with two M-21 assault rifles at Pajao garrison. Pvt. Than Zaw from the 701st Battalion from the ABSDF insurgent organization surrendered at Mogaung garrison.

Southern Military Command: Pvts. Soe Tagu, Pho Kachin, Kaw Lagu and Tin Win from the 3d Company of the KNU 8th Battalion surrendered at Letpangwin garrison, while Pvt. Soe Than from the ABSDF 210st Battalion surrendered at Thandaunggyi garrison.

Western Military Command: Pvt. Ali Kyaw Ba from the Kalazo insurgent organization surrendered with one Sten gun at Maungdaw garrison.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Opposition Party Leader Lim Kit Siang Resigns

BK2410062590 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Opposition party leader, Mr. Lim Kit Siang, has announced that he has resigned as DAP [Democratic Action Party] Secretary General. He has submitted his resignation letter to the party national chairman, Dr. Chen Man Hin. He said this at a press conference in

Pulau Pinang. He declined to say when his resignation would take effect. Mr. Lim who refused to answer any questions, however, said he has not given up his political beliefs and principles but (?warned) the time has come for a new secretary general for the opposition party.

Kelantan Chief Minister, Councilmen Sworn In

BK2310140290 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Haji Nik Aziz Nik Mat, the high commissioner of Malaysian Pan-Islamic Party [PAS] who is also the chief of PAS central ulema council, was sworn in as the new chief minister of Kelantan at the state palace last night. This was announced by his political secretary, Haji Abdul Rahim Abdullah.

Four members of the Kelantan State Council were also sworn in before the state ruler. They are: Haji Halim Abdul Rahman, Banggul, the deputy high commissioner of Kelantan PAS division; Datuk Haji Abdul Halim Haji Mohamed, Bunut Payong, the legal advisor of Kelantan PAS division; Haji Yahya Othman, Banggul-Juddah, a member of PAS central ulema council; and Haji Idris Haji Ahmand, Tawang, a member of PAS political committee.

Commonwealth Observers 'Satisfied' With Election

BK2310134090 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] The people of this country are free to choose their own leaders and government without any influence that could pose a threat to unity. This is one of the conclusions made by the Commonwealth observer group that monitored the recently concluded general elections. The observer group was headed by former Jamaican foreign minister, Mr. Dudley Thompson.

Speaking at a news conference in Kuala Lumpur, he said the observer group was satisfied with the smooth flow of the Malaysian general elections. A full report on the general elections will be presented to the Commonwealth secretary general, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, in London. A copy will be submitted to the Malaysian Government.

The 12-member observer group also commented that Malaysia was successful in its effort to establish a multiracial country.

Singapore

Authorities Expect 'Sharp Rise' in Oil Trading

BK2410091490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0704 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Singapore, Oct 24 (AFP)—Singapore authorities expect a new sharp rise in oil trading in the island republic, which has already become the world's third largest trading centre after New York and London.

Trade and Industry Minister Lee Hsien Loong said Tuesday the market here took off after 38 oil firms accepted Singapore's offer to set up trading headquarters under the Approved Oil Trader (AOT) scheme. The AOT scheme, administered by the trade development board, was introduced in January 1988 and offers a concessionary 10 per cent tax rate on income from international trading activities for five years.

Brigadier General Lee, speaking at an AOT certificate presentation ceremony, said the firms had committed themselves to substantially increasing their oil trading, physical brokering and futures activities in the republic. He said oil trading was expected to increase by 120 per cent to 53 billion Singapore dollars (31 billion U.S.), although he gave no time frame. Physical brokering was expected to rise nearly seven-fold to 5.5 billion dollars (3.5 billion U.S.) and futures trading in Singapore international monetary exchange from zero to 6.6 billion dollars (3.9 billion U.S.), he said.

Brig. Gen. Lee, Premier Lee Kuan Yew's son, added that these companies which served markets stretching from the east of Suez to the west coast of America would generate spin-offs for related sectors of Singapore's economy. "With its strategic location at the crossroads of the major Asia Pacific trade and shipping routes, Singapore enjoys the natural advantage of a global trading centre," he said. "Any international firm wishing to set up oil trading operations today in Singapore will be able to plug in to our global transport and telecommunication network."

Lee Kuan Yew Congratulates Gorbachev on Prize

BK2110114090 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] The prime minister has congratulated the Soviet leader, Mr. Gorbachev on being conferred this year's Nobel Peace Prize. Mr. Lee Kuan Yew said the award was in recognition of Mr. Gorbachev's initiative in fostering the momentous changes in Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and in reshaping the new international order through the United Nations for the peace and security for all countries. The prime minister's congratulatory message was released by the Foreign Ministry today.

Cambodia

AFP Reports New Spirit of Religious Freedom

BK2110094290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0841 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, Oct 21 (AFP)—Tens of thousands of Phnom Penh residents converged on the city's temples at the weekend to celebrate the festival of Kathen, one of the most important dates in Cambodian Buddhism. The festival, when people make offerings to their priests, was widely celebrated this year, following the easing of long-term restrictions on religious freedom.

During Kathen, all Cambodians with their families or in groups make their offerings to the priests in one of the growing number of newly restored or constructed temples.

Saturday and Sunday saw all of Phnom Penh's busses and trucks brightly decorated and shuttling people to the temples with their offerings of cloth, food, crockery or tools.

Since the constitutional reform of 1989 reinstating Buddhism as the state religion, more and more young priests can be found in the temples, barefoot with their heads shaved and wearing traditional saffron robes. The reform totally liberalised the practice of Buddhism for a people who have remained deeply religious, despite the bloody supression of religion under the Khmer Rouge from 1975-1979, and restrictions imposed by the pro-Vietnamese regime installed after Vietnam's 1978 invasion of Cambodia.

During their climb to power, the Marxist Khmer Rouge killed the majority of Cambodian priests and shut the temples, which they either destroyed or left to ruin.

"We were at fault in trying to restrict the practising of religion in the past," Premier Hun Sen said recently.

Before the 1989 reform, only men aged over 50 were allowed to become priests.

"I pray for peace and calm in the country, and the realistaion of a new harmony," one young priest said in a temple on the outskirts of Phnom Penh.

For the last 12 years, a civil war between the Phnom Penh regime and an opposition coalition has ravaged a country already bled dry by the Khmer Rouge.

The warring factions agreed in September in Jakarta to a U.N. sponsored peace plan, drawn up by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council—the Soviet Union, the United States, China, France and Britain. Ther plan provides for general elections to be held after a transitionary period, during which the running of the country would be overseen by the U.N. who will police a ceasefire and the disarming of the opposing factions.

Leaders Receive Message From SRV Counterparts

BK2410085190 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Recently Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State of the State of Cambodia; Comrade Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly; and Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, received a message of thanks from Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee; Comrade Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State of the SRV; Comrade Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Comrade Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly of the SRV.

The message reads: We extend to the KPRP Central Committee, the National Assembly, the Council of State, and the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia and to all fraternal Cambodian people our most sincere thanks for the precious feelings and profound condolences you sent over the death of Comrade Le Duc Tho, advisor to the CPV Central Committee.

SPK Reports Over 1 Million Ha of Rice Planted

BK2310054090 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0458 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK October 23—By mid-October this year, peasants throughout the country had put 1,177,000 ha [hectare] under rice or 70 per cent of the yearly plan. Of the cultivated area, 37,000 ha were grown with medium and short-term rice.

Good results have been obtained in Kompong Cham Province and Phnom Penh city, which grew 155,000 ha and 10,000 ha of rice respectively, or 92 per cent and 80 per cent of the target.

Besides rice, the farmers also covered 95,675 ha with subsidiary food crops such as maize, manioc, beans, sesame, sugar cane, jute, and vegetables.

World Condemns SRV's 'Warmongering Acts'

BK2410074290 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 23 Oct 90

["Article": "Peace- and Independence-Loving Forces in the World Will Definitely Not Allow the Aggressor Hanoi Authorities To Destroy the Permanent Members' Document and the Jakarta Agreement"]

[Summary] "On 19 October, Ngo Dien, Vietnamese ambassador in Phnom Penh, made an arrogant statement reiterating his opposition to the document of the permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC] and the Jakarta agreement on the formation of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], naming the samdech [Norodom Sihanouk] as its chairman".

Earlier, Nguyen Co Thach, foreign minister of the Vietnamese aggressors, declared before the UN General Assembly that he opposed the peace plan of the five UNSC permanent members. At the same time, the aggressor Hanoi authorities and their puppets have carried out military activities on all battlefields in an attempt to use brute force on the battlefield as a means to destroy the UNSC document and Jakarta agreement.

The Cambodian, Vietnamese, Southeast Asian, and world people have condemned these warmongering acts of the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppet-lackeys. The peace- and independence-loving forces in the world and the Cambodian national resistance forces will definitely not allow the Hanoi aggressors and their lackeys—

the Phnom Penh clique—to destroy the UNSC document and Jakarta agreement.

The Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets will not be able to destroy these documents. The UN Peacekeeping Force will soon come to Cambodia to force all Vietnamese to leave Cambodia. The Cambodian SNC with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as its chairman will join with the United Nations in supervising the implementation of the UNSC document in its entirety.

Kompong Cham Front Commander Gives Interview

BK2410050990 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] On 12 October 1990, during a meeting in the liberated zone, the correspondent team of our Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [VONADK] interviewed a commander of the Kompong Cham battlefield in the western part of the Mekong River. The gist of the interview follows.

Question: How have the aggressor Hanoi authorities implanted Vietnamese agents in villages in Kompong Cham Province?

Answer: So far, the aggressor Hanoi authorities have implanted many Vietnamese agents in villages and communes on this Kompong Cham battlefield. These Vietnamese agents are Vietnamese Army officials who can speak Khmer fluently. They marry Cambodian women so they can live among Cambodian people. Their present and particularly future aim is to conduct sabotage, espionage, and psychological warfare activities to undermine the national unity among our people and our Cambodian national resistance forces.

These agents lead a normal life like all other people. However, these implanted Vietnamese agents have very tricky schemes. They cooperate closely with the armed Vietnamese forces that the Hanoi authorities have organized among the Vietnamese immigrants who have settled down in fertile areas in Kompong Cham Province. These Vietnamese agents have secretly ordered armed Vietnamese to kill our people or anyone who opposes them.

Question: Have our people on this Kompong Cham battlefield launched any activities against these Vietnamese agents?

Answer: Our Armed Forces, people, and other Cambodian patriotic forces have closely cooperated and jointly launched attacks to dismantle the administrative networks of the Vietnamese aggressors and Phnom Penh puppets—Vietnamese lackeys—and set up a village national council. So long as we firmly rely on and unite with the people, these Vietnamese agents will not be able to stay on in our villages and communes.

So far, our side has firmly relied on the strength of our Cambodian great national union. Through this strength, we have been able to successively uncover Vietnamese agents implanted in villages and communes on our battlefield.

600 More SRV Troops Reportedly Shipped 1-7 Oct

BK2410035490 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Between 1 and 7 October, the aggressor Hanoi authorities shipped 600 fresh troops, wearing Vietnamese uniforms, to Cambodia. After landing, these troops were trucked to the following areas: 100 to Sre Ambel District seat; 250 to Kompong Seila Commune, Sre Ambel District, Koh Kong Province; and 250 to areas between Lou Choeung Ko and Prey Nop Commune in Prey Nop District of Kampot Province.

VONADK Says More Soviet Arms Shipped 7 Oct

BK2410034590 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] According to a report by our national resistance forces on Kompong Som-Route 4 battlefield, on 7 October, a Soviet 10,000-ton ship brought large and small weapons and ammunition, all kinds of war materiel, and many military trucks to Kompong Som Port. The Vietnamese enemies and their puppets have been transporting these arms, ammunition, war materiel, and military trucks along Route 4 to Phnom Penh.

Indonesia

Alatas Reaffirms Adherence to UN Resolutions

BK2210160890 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1500 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has reiterated that Indonesia as a UN member consistently upholds the UN Charter. As a country which strictly adheres to the ten principles of Bandung [the 1955 Afro-Asian conference] and the principles of the Nonaligned Movement, Indonesia has categorically rejected any foreign intervention, aggression, and use or threats of the use of violence in international relations.

The Indonesian foreign minister said this in his paper entitled "Indonesia's Participation in UN Activities" read by Jafar Fadil of the Department of Foreign Affairs at a seminar pegged to the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations in Bandung today.

According to Ali Alatas, the Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait is totally unjustifiable, and Indonesia fully supports and obeys all resolutions of the UN Security Council regarding the matter. In addition, the foreign minister deplored the conflict involving two members of the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic

Conference Organization, and OPEC, which have long maintained close brotherly relations with Indonesia.

Commander on Irian Jaya-PNG Border Situation

BK2210120090 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 18 Oct 90 p 3

[Text] Jayapura (JP)—The situation in Abepura along the Irian Jaya-Papua New Guinea [PNG] border has gradually returned to normal after attempts by members of the outlawed Free Papua Movement (OPM) to attack residential areas were replused in September.

Local Military Commander-in-chief Maj. Gen. [Major General] Abinowo recently told THE JAKARTA POST in Skouw, Abepura, 60 kilometers east of here, that people from Irian Jaya and Papua New Guinea have resumed their economic activities in border areas.

Maj. Gen. Abinowo, who was in the Skouw village to observe situation in border areas, claimed that OPM was weakening even though it had received weapons from abroad. "OPM has only 200 members scattered in the jungle," he said. "They are no longer compact, while armed forces (ABRI) members posted in border areas are quite stong."

The authorities and locals said an unspecified number of OPM members set houses in Skouw ablaze before they disappeared into the jungle in early September. Their motives were unclear. Herman Lolo, a local tribal chief, said some 25 houses were badly damaged by the OPM members whom the military calls "security disturbing groups," or GPK. He said many villagers had returned from their hiding places and were cultivating land they abandoned in the wake of the attack.

The Indonesian authorities have introduced border crossing passes to those living in border areas since the beginning of this month, saying that the move was intended to "improve the feeling of security and order among the villagers."

The ceremony marking the first distribution of the border crossing passes was attended by Papua New Guinea's director of border affairs, Parai Tamei, Indonesian Defense Attache in Port Moresby Col. [Colonel] Agung Harmono, and Jayapura Regent Barnabas Jouwe. The introduction of border crossing passes has greatly improved economic relations between people from both sides of the border lines. The Temawo barter marketplace in Jayapura Regency was reopened after being closed for several years due to security reasons.

A villager said many of the people from the two countries separated by the Tami River were relatives and that they were happy because restrictions in border crossing were eased. "We feel more secure after the introduction of border crossing passes because we can visit our relatives across the border without having to carry out complicated immigration procedures," said Herman Lolo.

The reopening of the barter market allows the local people to obtain goods without having to go on long journeys to the towns. Currencies of both countries are acceptable in border markets.

Government Revokes Tabloid's Printing License

BK2310154190 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1500 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] The government has revoked the publishing license of a weekly tabloid, MONITOR, following the information minister's issuance of decision letter number 162/1990 in Jakarta today.

In accordance with the information minister's decision letter, the MONITOR tabloid is prohibited from being printed, published, or circulated. The revocation was the outcome of MONITOR's report in its 15 October 1990 edition, which named Prophet Mohammed as one of the 50 popular figures. The report has caused anxiety among the people and has been categorized as one that would disrupt the public. Earlier, the weekly tabloid received a stern warning from the Information Department.

Philippines

'Contingency Plans' for Middle East War Noted

HK2310034790 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] President Aquino announced yesterday that the government would be ready to face any type of problem resulting from the possible war that may erupt in the Middle East. According to the president, a cabinet committee on political and security affairs under Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon has already prepared contingency plans.

Part of the contingency measures would be a continuous supply of food and other essentials as well as the maintenance of peace and order in the country. However, the president did not talk about the government's plans for the evacuation of 450,000 Filipino contract workers in Saudi Arabia, as well as 5,000 more in Kuwait and Iraq, in case war breaks out.

Preparations, Incidents Related to Strike Noted

Ramos Orders Security Increase

HK2310040090 Quezon City Radyo Ng Bayan in Tagalog 0200 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos has ordered AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa to deploy more policemen and soldiers in Metro Manila in relation to the Welgang Bayan [Nationwide Strike] set for tomorrow. Ramos' order is in anticipation of any possible violence that could result from the protest action. It will be recalled that since Sunday, the National Capital Region Defense Command

and the Capital Regional Command have been on red alert following the burning of passenger buses by unidentified men.

Three point five million workers from the private and public sector are expected to participate in the Welgang Bayan.

Aquino Appeals for Cancellation

HK2310103790 Quezon City DZBB Radyo Bisig Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] President Corazon Aquino appealed to workers today to brush aside the launching of a national strike and instead resolve the problem peacefully and in accordance with the law. President Aquino made the appeal after the labor sector confirmed it will push through with the scheduled national strike tomorrow to demand for a 38-peso wage increase. The president stressed the workers already have a pending petition for reconsideration regarding the 17-peso wage hike which was recently approved by the National Wage Board.

Labor Group Issues Basic Demands

HK2410043590 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 24 Oct 90 p 1, 14

[By Ric M. Baliao]

[Text] Congress leaders made a last-ditch effort last night to abort the nationwide "Welga ng Bayan [Nationwide Strike]" scheduled today. Speaker Ramon V. Mitra Jr. and other House leaders were scheduled to meet last night with Crispin Beltran, chairman of the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) [1 May Movement], to discuss the possibility of forging a compromise.

Beltran said they were ready to continue negotiations on the proposed P [peso] 17 minimum wage increase and other salary hikes approved by the wage board provided the government met some of their non-wage demands.

Earlier, at the "Talakayan ng Bayan ["Discussions of the Nation]" media forum hosted by newsman Rod L. Villa at the Hotel Nikko Manila Garden, Beltran outlined five basic demands on the government, as follows: a moratorium on the country's foreign debt payments for at least two years; scrapping of the import liberalization policy; a status quo on oil prices; shift of the tax burden to the rich; and subsidy for prime commodities.

In the same forum, Labor Secretary Ruben Torres assured that the government, while hoping that the workers would defer their strike, is prepared for today's "Welga ng Bayan." He doubted, however, if the labor leadeers can muster enough strength for a nationwide strike.

Torres also said the strike appears inevitable because the dispute has gone beyond the issue of workers' wages. he said whatever decisions the various wage boards may reach will not be of help in calling off the strike because the labor leaders were using the wage issue to rally the workers behind their extremist objectives which have nothing to do with wages.

Torres charged that extremist groups are seeking the collapse of the government "so they can institute their own system." The labor secretary cited as example the refusal of the labor leaders to await the final decision of the wage boards on workers' demands for higher wages before deciding on the nationwide strike.

Rep. Alberto Veloso (LDP, [Struggle of Philippine Democrats] Leyte), chairman of the House labor committee, appealed to labor leaders to defer the strike and give the government a chance to address the workers' demands.

Two Killed; Vehicles Burned

HK2410023590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0159 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Manila, Oct 24 (AFP)—Two people were reported killed and at least nine commuter buses burned as gunmen enforced a general strike launched Wednesday in major Philippine cities, police and radio stations said.

Police said they suspected communist rebels of responsibility for the bus burnings. The conductor and driver of a bus who refused to join the strike were shot dead by unidentified men in nearby Cavite Province, private radio station DZMM reported.

Radio station DZRH said that at least nine buses had been burned in Manila and in nearby provinces, while police confirmed that pistol-wielding men had waylaid three passenger buses and set them ablaze after forcing commuters to get off. A truck was burned near Manila's port district, police added.

No group claimed responsibility for the bus burnings, but police said they suspected the Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB), the urban assassination unit of the communist insurgent New People's Army (NPA). The ABB had burned two other buses Sunday and threatened to mobilize its forces against those who did not take part in the strike.

Two moderate union leaders were killed earlier this week. The military said said those killings may have been linked to the victims' refusal to join the strikes.

The government had put the military on highest alert and cancelled classes in all levels in this city to cope with the strike led by the leftist May One Movement (KMU) to press for a greater increase in the minimum wage. The KMU is widely suspected of links with communist insurgents but denies the charge.

Soldiers were seen escorting and driving some commuter buses as part of the government's plan to prevent NPA attacks.

Buses Burned in Various Areas

HK2410035590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0300 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Expansion of abbreviations unknown]

[Text] Buses were burned today at different times: a Victory Liner, at approximately 0300, in Orani, Bataan; a bus was set on fire in Santo Tomas, Batangas at around 0400; in Tarlac, a Dagupan bus; in Del Pan, Port Area, Manila, a cargo truck was burned at 0500; in V. Mapa, Sta Mesa, Manila an EMBC transit was set on fire at 0615; a Saulog transit was burned at 0630 in Dasmarinas, Cavite. The bus conductress was stabbed. At 0645, a MAC liner was burned in A. Bonifacio Avenue, Marikina. A Phil transit was set on fire at 0650 in Letre, Malabon; DMTC bus, 0740 in Tanyong, Marikina; and two other delivery trucks of Del Monte Philippines in Misamis Oriental.

Ramos Gives Update on Strike

HK2410025590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0225 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Statement by Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos in English; place and date not given; monitored in progress—live or recorded]

[Text] ...one in Dasmarinas, Cavite, another one in another town in Cavite and one in Tarlac, and the rest of them are here in Metro Manila. In addition, one patrolman in Caloocan and one Saulog bus driver were also killed by welgistas [strikers]. We have dismantled various barricades on choke points along the highway. This has been done with the help of a lot of [word indistinct] and patriotic people. Our main force is still the police but the military is there to back them up. In addition we are also providing military drivers in the LRT [Light Railway Transport], in the PNR [Philippine National Railway], as well as security teams in various important areas like terminals and also in the choke points.

Yes, eight people in Marikina have been arrested and they are now undergoing thorough investigation. Some people were also caught with pillboxes [homemade bombs].

Government To Press Charges

HK2410034190 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0305 GMT 24 Oct 90

[By Dick Sinchongco from Malacanang]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos announced this morning to Malacanang reporters that the government is preparing to file legal action against the strikers and that they are continuously monitoring the situation. According to him, dismantling of barricades was ongoing throughout the metropolis.

[Begin Ramos recording, in English] This is no longer a welga ng bayan [nationwide strike]. I would call this a strike of the left against the nation. Because that's really what it is on the ground and in fact the Alex Boncayao Brigade [ABB] has already admitted to the burning of buses. The NDF [National Democratic Front] is very much into this and the KMU [1 May Movement] is one of the NDF's organizations and that should be looked into very, very thoroughly. You know, this is not strictly a labor matter any more because of what the NDF and the KMU have commented and we see this as something much bigger which requires legal action. We have already conferred with Secretary Drilon, Secretary Torres of labor, Under Secretary Coloma of the Department of Transportation and Communication...[end recording]

At the same time, Ramos gave assurances that the entire Armed Forces of the Philippines remains on red alert due to the nationwide strike.

Meanwhile, the budget summit is currently being held at Malacanang Palace, a meeting between Malacanang and Congress leaders in relation to the government's budget.

De Villa Gives News Conference

HK2410111790 Quezon City DWDD Defense Department Radio in Tagalog 0625 GMT 24 Oct 90

[News conference by Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa held at the Commissioned Officers' Club, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City; monitored in progress—live or recorded; italicized portions in English]

[Text] [De Villa] ...that we have colleagues in the labor sector who are on strike, but the situation is being exploited by terrorists from the left in order to enforce what they call "political military strategy." *Labor and other organizations verified to be participating or supporting the welga [strike] that we have listed down through report from our unit are the following: Trade Union of the Philippines and Allied Services or TUPAS; the National Alliance of Trade Unions or NATU; Independent Labor Alliance of Workers or ILAW; of course the Kilusang Mayo Uno [1 May Movement]; the League of Filipino Students; BAYAN [New Nationalist Alliance]; GABRIELA [General Assembly Binding Women for Reforms, Integrity, Equality, Leadership, and Action]; Ugnayang Grupo sa mga Assosasyon ng Transportasyon or UGAT [Alliance of Transport Groups Association]; and the Philippines Confederation of Drivers Organizations or PCDO; the Pinagkaisahang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operators Nationwide or PISTON [United Organization of Drivers Nationwide]; and some nongovernmental organizations have also reportedly decided to support this welga during an economic summit sponsored by the People's Caucus, a multisectoral alliance of various nongovernment organization, which held their meeting some two weeks ago.*

On its part as confirmed by our intelligence, the CPP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army] has decided to exploit the welga to put forth the establishment of an insurrectionary situation. An order has been issued by them to their armed operatives nationwide to support the welga with armed activities.

In the Metro Manila and Rizal area, the regional military stock of the Manila-Rizal party committe ordered its Patayan [killing] unit and other so-called insurrectionary forces to coerce jeepney and bus drivers and operators to join the planned mass action.

Their plans include daily puncturing of bus and jeepney tire; burning of buses whose drivers and operators refused to join the welga; the setting-up of human barricades and other forms of physical barriers and the massing of sympathizers to generate public attention, specially through the local and foreign media.

Under this plan, the CPP-NPA intends to burn buses as they have already done in Metro Manila, in Central and Southern Luzon. Their plans also include the ambush of PC-Capcom [Philippine Constabulary-Capital Region Command] and INP [Integrated National Police] mobile patrol cars and to send threat letters and so-called appeals to businessmen and transport operators to generate support and cooperation.

As of this moment, two persons, a bus driver and his conductor, have already been killed in Cavite and three policemen of the Metropolitan Police Force have been wounded in violent action connected with the welga. Ten buses and trucks, four of them in Metro Manila, three in Cavite, one each in Batangas, Bataan and Tarlac have been bombed by suspected CPP-NPA armed terrorists supporting the welga. A report of two buses of the Del Monte Company in Misamis Oriental have also been received but we have not yet confirmed this action. In the Visayas and Mindanao, aside from what I have just said, no untoward incident or violence has been reported although there are transportation strikes in some cities.

As a consequence of this violence, threats, and intimidation, several persons have already been arrested by the police as reported to us by the PC-INP. Eight in Marikina, five in Caloocan City, four in Quezon City and five in Manila. To help the DOTC or the Department of Transportation and Communication maintain public transport service, particularly in Metro Manila, the Armed Forces has provided ten officers and 190 drivers and assigned them to some beleaguered transport companies. More drivers and security personnel will be fielded as the need arises.

To uphold the majesty of the law, I have ordered the chief of constabulary and director-general of the INP General Nazareno to cause the arrest of persons violating the law. And as necessary, to use force, to neutralize armed elements who are participating or supporting the welga in one way or the other. Unlawful mass actions shall be dispersed and physical barrieres and barricades in public thoroughfares that prevent the free movement of the citizenry shall be dismantled.

The AFP for its part will maintain the red alert status of all AFP units nationwide, air and ground surveillance over Metro Manila, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, as well as other areas as necessary. As well as providing armed security escorts to beleaguered bus companies shall be maintained for as long it is needed.

I wish to assure our people that the Armed Forces will do its best to perform its mandate to protect our law-abiding citizens and maintain law and order under any circumstance. Lastly, I ask our people to remain calm and united and to have faith in our government's capability to prevail as we have demonstrated many times in the past.

We finally ask our people's support and cooperation in all our efforts to prevent anarchy and lawlessness in our communities. That is my statement. We will answer your questions and many thanks to all of you.

[Moderator] Thank you sir. Jessica [Soho] please.

[Soho] Sir, you said it is a part of a political military strategy of the left. Sir, how do you read this? What is the message they want to convey?

[De Villa] We have known for a long time that they have developed a political-military strategy which in short they call pol-mil. Several months have already passed since they completed this plan. The strategy is to create an isurrectionary situation in the urban centers *to complement the CPP-NPA guerilla action in the countryside.* They are hoping for quick and widespread unrest so they can take advantage and create chaos. It is our opinion they are experimenting with this strike if they can sustain the unrest and if the public will accept this.

[Soho] Sir, so what are your recommendations to President Aquino? *Is there a need to declare an emergency situation?*

[De Villa] In our opinion, there is no need yet to recommend additional authority for the government to quell this unrest. What I would like the people to know is that there *are legitimate grievances, there are legitimate protests* being conducted. However, members of the CPP-NPA-NDF and their front organizations are riding on the situation so they can take advantage of the situation for their insurrection.

[Moderator] Charie Villa please.

[Villa] Yesterday, Secretary Ramos said there were indications of an alliance between the leftists and the rightists, the military rebels. Are you anticipating any action from the military rebels? Will they ride on the current situation and do you think that it is still safe for the public to go out into the streets?

[De Villa] I will answer your second question first, Charie. Our advice to the people is that they do not have to change their normal daily routine if they or their daily activities are not affected by the strike because these affected areas may be seen only in some parts of the Philippines. The greater part of the Philippines is not affected by this unrest. They should not fear that the situation will get out of control. Our government is strong and so is the public's support; and, as we discussed last night, the majority of the transport operators are not participating in the strike. Regarding the alliance between the left and the right, I shall turn you over to General Filler to explain this matter.

[An unidentified woman's voice identifies General Filler as the chief of the intelligence unit of the Armed Forces of the Philippines]

[Filler] *The alleged alliance between the left and the right, particularly between the ABB [Alex Boncayao Brigade] and the YOU [Young Officers Union] has been reported to us several times in the past and very recently this has been confirmed by military intelligence sources from within both movements.* So, the press release interview of Purruganan over the weekend should dispell any further doubts that they have an alliance. Now, many would probably doubt whether the left and right can join forces since they have different ideologies; they are on opposing sides. What we know is that, until now, they have only talked about a synchronization of the military effort plan. *They have not yet formed a coalition and their immediate objective is to destabilize further the government and for them to be able [to] further their cause and eventually take power. They have only talked about that point.*

[Villa] But sir, are you not anticipating any actions from the military rebels to ride on the current unrest going on in the streets?

[Filler] We have received reports that they will also take advantage of the situation. In fact, in the pol-mil strategy, they have already talked about some aspects. However, we cannot disclose what they are planning to do, because the next thing you will ask is what we are going to do and we cannot tell you that either.

[Reporter] Are we on the brink of chaos?

[De Villa] Like I said earlier, our government, through the concerned departments like the Department of Labor, the Department of Transportation and Communication, the Department of Local Government and the Department of National Defense, is in control of the situation. We in the Armed Forces, in accordance to the instruction given us by Secretary Ramos and President Aquino, are also taking care of the situation to ensure it is controlled and not widespread and violent. But I want to inform our people not to be scared and not to panic.

[Moderator] Aida Gonzales of [word indistinct].

[Gonzales] General, at this point, how do you assess the situation? Is it succeeding since many buses were burned and many provincial trips were paralyzed.

[De Villa] It is too early, Aida, to decide whether this is a victory for the strikers or the government or the triumph of the nation because there are various issues involved in this strike. For example, the leftists have included the base; the legitimate labor organizations have the wages—increase in minimum wage; for the other organizations, their issue is human rights. However, I think the nation will eventually come out as the victorious party. Because our nation will not collapse. There will be no real trouble in that we will lose a government like Lebanon. The only thing is that there are public transport vehicles and some buildings that are destroyed. Some have gotten hurt, like the person killed in Cavite who was stabbed and whose bus was set on fire. But *on the whole, I dare predict that we can overcome this. We will prevail and in due time, normalcy in the affected areas will return.*

[Gonzales] Sir, a follow-up question. General Biazon and Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos said this is a strike against the nation and not a nation's strike.

[De Villa] I also believe in that because if you burn a bus, who will perish? If you paralyze the jeepney transport, who will suffer? If you stop the jeepney transportation, who will suffer? If your bus is burned, say 1.5 million each, then we've lost 15 million. [sentence as heard] I think this is not similar to previous strikes. In the early days, it was really the nation who rose up and supported the major issue which was to renounce the dictatorship. But this is different and could not be called a nation's strike. Perhaps, this is a strike of some groups against the nation.

[Gonzales] *Thank you, General.*

[Moderator] *Thank you, Aida. Eloi Aquino, DZRH.*

[Aquino] *Sir, would you tell us your plan in case Welgang Bayan [Nation's Strike] continues* and what is your reaction to the threat by the Young Officers Union that if soldiers and policemen meddle in this crisis, a bigger problem would arise.

[De Villa] Our commentary on that is we cannot turn our backs from our responsibility to the nation. Even if they say that a strong earthquake will occur tomorrow if we meddle, we will still meddle because this is our responsibility to the nation. It is the responsibility of the uniformed men, the men in the government, the police, the military to maintain peace and protect the safety of the public, the majority of the public. We will not retreat just because there are threats like this. Come what may, *we will maintain law and order under any circumstance.* I do not know from where that threat came, but we will verify this.

[Moderator] Manny Mogato.

[Mogato] There is a plan by the labor groups to extend the strike for three more days. The best thing the AFP can do is prevent this plan because if this strike goes on, the people will face more difficulties.

[De Villa] Manny, let us clarify our principles first. The government, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the INP are not against protests or strikes because within our democratic processes, the Filipino has the right to protest. But what we are concerned with is the violence, violation of the law, barricading of our roads which delays the passage of those who have not joine the strike, adn the stoning and bombing of public transport used by the general public. We control this. But if this is a peaceful demonstration, peaceful strike in accordance with the law, peaceful protest, all we may do is watch. But where there is violence and violation of laws, that is where we enter and make arrests.

[Moderator] Noel Maderanga, please.

[Maderanga] Sir, do you not have plans to arrest the strike leaders like Roda and Crispin Beltran?

[De Villa] *We have given guidance to the chief of Constabulary and director general of the National Police and this guidance is transmitted* to all the police and PC nationwide , that he who violates the law shall be arrested. Those who are carrying pillboxes [homemade bombs] and Molotov cocktails will be charged with the illegal possession of explosives. Those who are stoning and setting up barricades will likewise be charged with disturbing the peace and obstructing traffic. We have relayed this to General Nazareno so that all laws must be obeyed to keep the nation peaceful and to allow the peaceful legitimate airing of grievances. This does not mean indiscriminate arrests. This cannot be done because whatever we say, we are bound to abide by the law.

[Moderator] [Name indistinct].

[Reporter] General, today the people are saying the strikers are succeeding, especially the leftist elements, in their protest today because many transportation companies have been barricaded by these elements and our military and police elements seem helpless to remove this. At present, this is what is happening and is why the buses and the jeepneys could not go out. So, our people who are affected are saying the military and the police seem to be so soft in that they could not order these buses to go out and transport people.

[Text] [De Villa] We are not, I mean the military is not, the sole deciding body about everything because this is not a military government nor are we running a military government. The company owners and the government agencies involved in this are the ones deciding this issue. When they ask for our help, like the case involving the Metro Manila security for Light Railway Transit and Philippine National Railways, we are there. But if there is an order by government agencies to remove the demonstrators and there is a basis for the removal, we will do so. But we have not received any complaint or anyone seeking help in removing these barricades in front of their company. What we have received are some reports on barricades *or attempted barricades in our thoroughfares this morning. As of now, our report is that all barricades that have been attempted to be put up this morning up to this noon in our major route thoroughfares and roads even in the provinces have already been removed.* The latest barricade that had been removed was the barricade in Bataan, in Dinalupihan. I do not know how this was removed, but there was a report that this has been removed. If the bus companies, who have barricades set up in front of their compounds, had called us for help through the DOTC to remove these barricades, we would have removed them.

[Moderator] Danny Burgos.

[Burgos] You have mentioned earlier the strikers were supported by the leftist organizations and communists. Have you received reports saying that these demonstrators are also being supported by foreigners or foreign governments?

[De Villa] At this hour, we have not received any report of that sort. But we know in the previous years, there were organizations who had been supported by funds coming from outside the country. But as of now, we have not received reports indicating the money used to fund this strike came from outside. We cannot prove this at this stage.

[Moderator] Dario Agnote.

[Agnote] *Good afternoon, General. On Sunday, three buses were burned and were burned by the ABB or the urban communist guerillas here in Metro Manila. Now, the next day, Monday, Secretary Ramos after his trip to Samar issued a directive to you, you know, to take measures to prevent this from happening again. And then the military also poured in, I think 600 but some say 1,000 military troops in Manila from Luzon and from the south.* My question is this: *Why does the military seem to fail to prevent the occurrence of all this burning of buses?*

[De Villa] Dario, if we want nothing to happen to the buses, maybe I could not promise you this because they are plenty and are scattered around. But what we are doing, as per Secrtary Ramos' order, is to enforce preventive action which has been implemented by all districts of the Metropolitan Police Force and CapCom [PC-INP Capital Regional Command]. Actually, the additional troops coming from the adjacent provinces to augment the CapCom is 500 not 1,000. But despite this, we are still not able to cover all major thoroughfares and street corners. In fact, as stated in our reports, five more buses have been burned in Manila. We could say that in other areas this has been prevented, only we could not see it. Our problem here is we cannot see what has been prevented. What we can only see are those that have been pushed through. If we view it this way, we will not say that with all these troops deployed in Manila, nothing has been done. I think they have done a lot, but we are not able to consider those that did not materialize. Like this morning, the Mandaluyong police confiscated piles of old tires which were being prepared for barricades, to be burned as usual. That one is an act of prevention. So, we admit there are some that got their way and there are some occurrences of violence but we should not stop here.

[Agnote] *Sir, just a brief follow-up question. Do you expect more bus burnings tonight and tomorrow?*

[De Villa] Let us again ask our intelligence antennae. Please, General Filler.

[Filler] Our theory is they will continue burning buses and trucks. But all the troops have been deployed in the field. In fact, as of twelve o'clock this afternoon, there have been two attempts already to burn [word indistinct] but failed. *We will just have to keep our guard and minimize further damages to property, particularly in the case of buses and trucks.* Because we all know the nation needs these. Every day out in the streets, you can see thousands of people waiting for rides. So the 10 buses they burned is a big loss and these trucks are not manufactured in our country. We are buying these from other countries and they cost a fortune. So, if they destroy these buses, it is not only the owners who suffer but the people as well. *That will be the number of trucks and the carrying capacity that will be put out of commission to serve the public.*

[Agnote] Thank you. I would like to ask General Abadia, the present chief of the AFP [as heard]: We have talked about the deployment of the PC-INP and police, but General de Villa mentioned earlier there is air and ground surveillance. What is the role of the other major service commands regarding the strike right now?

First of all we have CDC battalions ready. We have asked all major services to allocate a battalion, even the GHQ [general headquarters]. This is if there is a need for them especially in this rally. But the dispersal of illegal rallies is the duty of the PC-INP. The military, however, has prepared seven CDC battalions. We also have now a battalion inside Metro Manila to help in guarding vital installations. They augment the CapCom and the National Capital Region Defense Command. On the airport, General De Villa issued a directive that there must be an (aerial rough reconnaissance), in other words, there are helicopters monitoring the roads, main thoroughfares and main highways for the presence of barricades, marchers, and so forth. *So, aside from what's happening* like police actions, we also have contingency forces prepared for any eventuality. Right now, we have deployed two CDC companies from the Philippine Navy which we assigned to Mendiola because, allegedly there are about 1,000 demonstrators there. We placed them there to monitor events. I think the military is prepared to support the PC-INP, if necessary.

[Reporter] Sir, I just want to ask about the alliance of ABB and YOU. We learned they have done their best to overthrow the situation here. How would you assess their capability in attempting to grab power and does the AFP has enough muscle to collide head on with them.

[De Villa] You are right. The Armed Forces and the Integrated National Police have the capability not only to fight them but to crush their goals, especially if these are frontal operations. But we do not hide the fact that the two, the united left and right, both are capable of sowing terroristic acts like carrying out bombings, burning buses, and throwing pillboxes, Molotov cocktails, or grenades. And they also have a little support coming from various sectors of our society. But this is so little that it is not enough to overthrow the government. Perhaps you have seen what occurred in Cagayan de Oro. There was a support by 6,000 kibitzers which was reduced to 600, and when it rained, they disappeared. So, they have capabilities, but not enough to overthrow the government or cause the collapse of the Armed Forces or just the police alone. So, we are asking the people to help us monitor them and tell us where they are, especially those carrying guns, Molotov cocktails, or explosives, or those carrying materials to set up barricades. If you see them, report immediately to the police in order to stop them before they can carry out their plan.

[Moderator] [Name indistinct].

[Reporter] Sir, tonight, I think the situation is still going to be critical. Do you have plans to set up checkpoints?

[De Villa] I think there are checkpoints set up already. I think since last night. We will tighten up security measures especially at night. I am calling on the public to pay attention to this and bear with us regarding the stricter measures we are implementing because these are for the nation's peace.

[Moderator] The last question will come from [name indistinct].

[Reporter] Sir, what happened to the free ride by the AFP? This morning we were looking for this free ride to be able to take a photo to publish in the newspaper, but I have gone as far as Aguinaldo but I did not see one.

[De Villa] The truth is we pulled out the trucks offering free rides because we ran out of gasoline. The little help which we asked and were waiting for from the DOTC, came but it was a check and has not passed the COA [Commission on Audit]. But this morning, Colonel Mariano pulled out about 30 trucks to render free rides, this is only half of what we usually provide. I told him to buy gasoline on account so he can deploy the trucks out until the strike is over because we fear that the buses were not enough. The normal number of trucks we deploy is normally between 60 to 70 a day to the routes where there are plenty of people waiting or on routes where there is a demonstration. Secretary Orbos said in our conversation that they have 100 cargo trucks provided by the private sectors to render free rides. Secondly, they have 100 provincial buses to augment Metro Manila in this transportation crisis. This is the information I gathered last night.

[Reporter] What is the worst scenario which the opposite force can take and what is our countermeasure for this.

[De Villa] There are many tactics which the workers, especially those in factories, can do. They can slow down production. The leftists, through the use of one to three persons, can sabotage plants. It is also possible, as has been done previously, to scatter spikes to stop those taking trips. But the most usual thing they do is to go house to house to distribute letters asking for support, or maybe send one or two men, who look really scary, to threaten operators. *So, these are all acts of harassment and terrorism.* But beyond this, they cannot fight us frontally. This is impossible because they do not have the capability to do this. The worst scenario we could expect are *terroristic acts of intimidation, coercion, or sabotage.*

[Moderator] Last question, sir. Charie Villa.

[Villa] Sir, let us go back to the public since they are affected by all of these. You said you cannot ensure the prevention of all this terrorism occurring in our streets.

[De Villa] Not one hundred percent.

[Villa] But you told the public to carry on with their normal lives. How can that be possible? They see troops in the streets, buses burning. How could you tell them to live normally in this situation?

[De Villa] Charie, I said not all parts of the country are affected. There are parts which are not affected where life is normal, the situation is normal. Secondly, I said that those civilians who have to do their normal routines, like the need to make some trips because of business or something personal, so long as their is a public transport running, they can use this. And to those who are in places where there is tension, they might want to postpone things they want to do today for tomorrow in order to avoid getting caught in the situation. What I want to say Charie, *in a larger sense,* is that we should not let the life of the common man be rattled just because of this. There are risks involved, but that is the sad truth. *There are risks involved in going about your daily chore in an affected area.* My other message is not to be too scared as though we are about to explode. This is not true.

[Moderator] Thank you, sir. I think there is one more question, sir.

[Reporter] We have been hearing that the Armed Forces of the Philippines has played a big role in maintaining peace and order in our country. The whole nation is listening to us now. From your point of view, what can the public do to help maintain peace and order?

[De Villa] First, they should be careful about who is leading them, enticing and inviting them to rise up, demonstrate, or rally. Secondly, to those who are joining the protests, they should exercise caution in that if they sense they are about to be engaged in an of violence, they should move out, so that they will not be involved. To the ordinary citizen who is not involved in this, if possible they should support the government. Support our police, our Armed Forces. And if they notice something unusual in their surroundings in that they suspect violence might occur, they should report immediately to the police or to the military nearest to their place so that before the act occurs it could be prevented. If they see some in their vicinity who are carrying nails but are not carpenters, or carrying many tires or setting up barricades or carrying guns atheir waists, to report this immediately in order to prevent violence. To the unaffected areas, go about your normal daily routines and trust the capability of your government to resolve this crisis, suppress violence so that we could bring the situation back to normalcy very soon. I think this will not last.

[Reporter] Thank you sir.

[Moderator] Just one more question, sir.

[Casulia] Good afternoon, General de Villa. Sonny Casulia, sir, of DWIZ. This morning sir, we are supposed to hold a news conference but it was postponed because, according to General Rimando's announcement, you were summoned by Ambassador Emmanuel Pelaez. Was this in connection to the nation's strike?

[De Villa] I will correct Tito Rimando's mistake. It was not Ambassador Pelaez who called me. It was Secretary Ramos who invited me to accompany him at the department because Ambassador Pelaez was his guest, and my presence was needed just in case Ambassador Pelaez wanted to know something about the present situation. So, I ran there.

[Casulai] Thank you, sir.

[Moderator] Sir, would you like to make a closing statement?

[De Villa] My closing statement for the nation, for the police and soldiers in the field and on the ground is: Let us not be violent in this protest by some of our fellowmen and let us be very careful not to let this be exploited by terrorists, either from the left or right, so as not to turn the whole thing into violence nor lead to the destruction of public or private properties or injury and death to some Filipinos. Second, if I am being heard by all military and police, we are on red alert and let us maintain peace in the country and protect the interests of our law-abiding citizens. And like I told General Nazareno, arrest those who violate the law and use every effort appropriate to suppress the terrorists, especially the armed group who is leading this strike.

To our countrymen, trust in the ability of your government in monitoring this strike and preventing chaos to the whole nation. Like I said, we can handle this. And I expect it will not be very long until the normal situation is back. To the aggressors, calm down because if you go beyond the boundary of the law and continue violence, we will have no other choice but to arrest you.

Honasan, Others Charged With Raiding Armory

HK2310035690 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] The Department of Justice yesterday ordered the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office to file charges against ex-Colonel Gregorio Honasan and 20 others for robbing the armory of V. Luna Medical Center last 8 September.

In other matters, the National Bureau of Investigation has also filed charges of inciting to sedition against Dorian Sicat, radio announcer on station DXSS.FM, for encouraging soldiers and civilians to support the rebellion in Mindanao under former Colonel Alexander Noble.

Military 'Foresees' Breakup of RAM, YOU

HK2410044590 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 24 Oct 90 p 8

[By Wilma N. Yamzon]

[Text] The military said yesterday it foresees the eventual breakup of the "ultra-rightist" Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) and Young Officers Union (YOU) because "they do not know what they are fighting for."

Maj. Gen. [Major General] Rodolfo Biazon, vice chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), said the RAM-YOU "is committing the same mistake" that will eventually lead to the group's breakup.

He explained that like "the excesses of the communist movement, the RAM-YOU is alienating their perceived mass base by showing obsessive desire for power. They do not know what they are fighting for except to grab power," Biazon said.

He said the alliance of the RAM-YOU with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) "reveals bankruptcy of ideology of their movement and the YOU no longer stands for good government or public service."

Col. [Colonel] Juanito Rimando, AFP spokesman, said that the YOU is not a reform movement as it purports to be. "It is an organization aimed at grabbing power and its members have their own ambitions," Rimando said.

He said because of the group's various personal interests, the YOU will disintegrate sooner or later because its members "will just fight one another." He said the announced alliances made by the YOU with the CPP was a dangerous move because the other group is smarter and more experienced.

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Gerardo Flores, PC [Philippine Constabulary] chief of staff, said a number of top CPP leaders had sent feelers to the government for possible surrender. "Our children are growing and we still do not see the light at the end of the tunnel," one rebel leader reportedly told Flores.

By discarding their anti-communist stand, Biazon said that the RAM-YOU is comitting the same "strategic mistake" that caused the decline of the CPP and NPA [New People's Army].

Thailand

Chatchai Holds News Conference Upon Return

BK2310151290 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Today Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan and his delegation returned from their official visit to the United Kingdom and from wishing happy birthday to the king's mother in Switzerland. They were welcomed upon arrival by Deputy Prime Minister Pramuan Saphawasu, who is acting prime minister, cabinet ministers, and senior officials at the airport reception room.

Speaking on his visit at the news conference, the prime minister said the tour was successful on two points. Both the United Kingdom and Switzerland praised the Thai economy and its firm progress. They were also pleased with the Thai Government's participation in the search for a settlement to the Cambodian problem by involving all four Cambodian factions, instead of only three factions as previously.

Answering questions from correspondents on the current domestic political situation, the prime minister said it is possible to convene an extraordinary session of parliament as noted in the Constitution. The prime minister expressed extreme regret over the death of the student who immolated himself. He also asked people not to lend credibility to the revolutionary council or any form of undemocratic government.

[Begin recording] [Chatchai, in progress] It concerns what the Constitution says. I have no objection.

[Unidentified correspondent] There have been calls, and some members of the coalition parties are supporting them, for convening of an extraordinary session of parliament. This hinges on your decision. What is your position?
[Chatchai] I cannot decide on this matter alone and must consult others on whether to convene such a parliament session. There are no conditions involved. I will comply with whatever the Constitution says.

[Unidentified correspondent] How do you plan to answer the current demands by the students? The father of Thanawut [who immolated himself] wants you to attend his son's funeral. Do you plan to attend?
[Chatchai] When is that?
[Unidentified correspondent] The 25th of this month.
[Chatchai] Right now I don't know what my schedule is. But I hope to be able to attend because I am somewhat impressed by his determination and feel very sorry about

his death. I instructed the doctors to do their best for the student but it did not work out. I am very sorry, you all know that.

[Unidentified correspondent] How do you plan to resolve the situation regarding the demands by the students?
[Chatchai] Demands are raised all the time. It is part of the democratic system, how can I gag people? People are free to voice their views. They have voiced their disagreement. There are supporters and opposers, this is normal everywhere. Do you prefer dictatorship where differences of opinion are not allowed? This is a democratic country, perhaps you have forgotten that.

[Unidentified correspondent] How does the government view the revolutionary council and how will it solve the problem?
[Chatchai] I already told you before that I do not like the word revolution. I will even abolish all the orders of the revolutionary party and the national administrative reform council. I will remove the word revolution from the face of Thailand. We are a democratic country, but we keep paying attention to revolutionary stories. If we don't pay attention to the revolutionary council, how can it continue to survive? I don't understand it. You said you want democracy but at the same time you keep bringing up this revolutionary council thing. Let us stop paying attention to it so that the word revolution will disappear from our vocabulary. Or do you want a revolution? [end recording]

Need for Special Parliamentary Session Viewed

BK2410062390 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Oct 90 p a8

[Editorial: "Time To Do Something"]

[Text] Once again the Prime Minister's strategy of sitting back and doing nothing is about to be put to a crucial test. Last week he announced that he would reshuffle the Cabinet on his return from Western Europe. And, during his absence, some Cabinet members dropped strong hints that another round of retail oil price increases appeared inevitable. Further still, the Opposition claimed to have received sufficient support from senators to force an extraordinary session of parliament to debate urgent national issues.

It was just a few weeks ago that the Prime Minister reportedly toyed with the idea of kicking Interior Minister Banhan Silapa-acha up stairs by promoting him to deputy prime minister. Banhan, however, outmanoeuvred the Prime Minister by leading a party of about 70 Chat Thai MPs to call on him supposedly as a show of support for his premiership. In fact it was to extract a promise from the Prime Minister not to remove Banhan from the influential Interior portfolio, as well as not to reshuffle Chat Thai Cabinet members without consulting Banhan and other senior Chat Thai party executives.

If the pugnacious Banhan can not be moved elsewhere—and he has made it abundantly clear that he wants to stay in his present post—the Prime Minister doesn't seem to have any incentive to reshuffle the Cabinet again. The Democrat Party may want to make some slight changes to its lineup, but this is inconsequential. What the Prime Minister really wants is to regain some measure of control of his own party by reducing Banhan's influence as secretary general and paymaster.

Publicly the Prime Minister always maintains that economic issues and not political issues are of most concern to him. One of the most pressing economic issues he is facing concerns retail oil prices. The Oil Fund, in keeping retail prices at their present levels through a price subsidy, is losing about Bt [baht] 60 million a day. Already it is more than Bt1 billion in the red. This was why some Cabinet members were talking of the need to raise retail oil prices for a third time.

The present retail oil prices are based on crude oil costing US$28-US$30 a barrel. If crude oil is more expensive, the Oil Fund pays a higher subsidy to keep the lid on retail prices. Before this week, crude had leaped way above US$30 a barrel, but with tensions in the Gulf receding this week, the world spot market dropped sharply below that figure. This fortunate development may have saved the Chatchai administration the trouble of mulling a third oil price increase for the time begin. But where will it find the money to pay for the oil price subsidy? Sixty million baht a day is a lot of money to waste.

Another serious economic issue is the tight money situation in which business people, big and small alike, are being squeezed by the credit crunch. The Chatchai administration will need more than good luck to handle the situation and head off a major downturn in the Thai economy.

On top of this is the looming demand of several labour leaders for an increase in the minimum wage; some of them want the daily wage rate for Bangkok and adjacent provinces to go up from Bt90 to Bt110. Even though the threat of a third retail oil price increase may have waned, the labour leaders feel their demand is fully justifiable because the cost of living has already risen as a result of the two previous oil price hikes which raised the cost of petroleum fuel by over 30 percent.

On the political front, the Opposition now believes it has enough votes to convene a special parliamentary session in order to question the Chatchai administration on several issues, including the controversial 150-billion-baht phone expansion project. If indeed more than 100 senators have endorsed the Opposition's call, this would be a turning point in the role of the appointed Senate—and, no doubt, a major challenge to the Prime Minister.

Only one-third of the 267 senators were appointed during the Chatchai administration, the other two-thirds being from the previous administration of Gen [General]

Prem Tinsulanon. Those in the latter group practically owe no allegiance to the Chatchai administration. And Army Commander Gen Suchinda Kraprayun wants all senators to use their individual judgment on whether to support the call for an extraordinary parliamentary session. The Opposition interprets his position as a green light for all militarymen who are senators to endorse the call.

We remain convinced that it is appropriate for the senators to join the Opposition in calling for the parliamentary session. This is in line with their constitutional duty of participating in government.

Since the Prime Minister refuses to resign or dissolve the House, he should welcome the call as this will give him and his administration a chance to discuss pressing national issues in Parliament in an orderly manner. This is far better than trading accusations with the Opposition outside of Parliament or trying to contain the growing antigovernment protests staged by various "mysterious" groups.

Academics, Lawyers Issue Letter on Press Bill

BK2210032490 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Oct 90 p 3

[Text] A large number of university lecturers in communication arts, journalism and mass communications and lawyers have issued an open letter saying what should be revised in the new Press Bill now being scrutinised by a House committee.

The letter, signed by 260 lecturers at various universities and lawyers, on Friday was submitted to Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, the Cabinet, Speakers of the Senate and House of Representatives and chairman of the House committee scrutinising the Press Bill.

The signatories include those of 55 lecturers at Chulalongkon University, including Dr Daruni Hiranrak, dean of the Faculty of Communication Arts, Dr Phira Chirasophon of the Department of Journalism and Dr Wisanu Khrua-ngam; 37 from Thammasat University, including Dr Bunrak Bunyakhetmala, dean of the Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communications, Assoc Prof [Associate Professor] Noraniti Sethabut, Dr Likit Dhiravegin and Dr Seksan Prasoetkun; 9 from Ramkhamhaeng University; 11 from Rangsit University; 3 from the Chamber of Commerce University; one from Bangkok University; 32 from Maha Sarakham Teachers College; and 112 lawyers, including Lawyers Council president Prathan Duangrat.

The letter was issued after the Cabinet decided to issue an executive decree to repeal the National Administrative Reform Council's Decree 42.

The signatories believe although Decree 42 will be abolished when the decree takes effect, the essence of the decree, which gives power to "press officers" to shut down newspapers, is now in the new Press Bill.

Although the Government has said it will withdraw the bill when Parliament reopens, the lecturers and lawyers suggest the following points in the Press Bill should be revised:

—Instead of having to seek "permission" from the press officers to open newspapers, the opening of new newspapers should be simply made through a registration process, similar to the registration of new companies;

—The press officers should not be empowered to close newspapers. The power to shut down newspapers should be given to the court to ensure full justice; and

—The press officers should not be empowered to order newspapers to correct news because there are already laws to deal with newspapers if their news or articles infringe on the rights of other people.

Half-Year Trade Figures With Japan Reported

BK2310121890 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] According to the Thai Embassy in Tokyo, Thai-Japanese trade during the first half of 1990 increased in volume. Japan ordered 48 billion baht worth of Thai goods, a 26.2 percent increase over the same period of 1989. The Thai exports included frozen shrimp, gems and jewelry, smoked natural rubber sheets, frozen chickens, sugar, garments, gypsum, and tin. Thailand imported 609,797 million yen worth of Japanese goods during the same period, a 44.7 percent increase over the same period last year. Most Japanese exports included machinery, industrial equipment, and metal and chemical products.

Burmese Students Implicated in Embassy Blast

BK2410015390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Oct 90 p 6

[Text] A group of Burmese students is believed to be behind a bomb blast in the compound of the Burmese Embassy in Sathorn Road last week, according to an intelligence report from the Interior Ministry.

Members of the group are among 400 students who receive 3,000 baht a month each from a United Nations' relief agency. About 800 Burmese students have been allowed to move from the Thai-Burmese border to Bangkok after fleeing the bloody crackdown on prodemocracy demonstrations in Burma two years ago.

UN officials have tried to convince the Thai Government to allow Burmese students to live in Bangkok, fearing Thai border authorities may send them back to Rangoon as has been done previously, a source said. The UN has asked Thailand to recognise the status of Burmese dissidents in the same way as for other refugees, but Thai officials are afraid the UN will stop relief aid.

The Cabinet in August approved an Interior Ministry proposal to establish a detention facility for the 800 students.

A working committee comprising representatives from the Interior Ministry, the Immigration Department and the National Security Command, has been assigned to look for a place to house the students so they cannot get involved in politics or engage in activities against the Rangoon government.

The source said the UN officials disagree with Thai officials putting the students in detention.

Deputy Interior Permanent Secretary for Security Affairs Chamnan Photchana said it is inappropriate if Burmese dissidents allowed to live in Bangkok get involved in politics and anti-Rangoon campaigns.

They had been allowed to live in the city for safety reasons. "We can look after them closely," he said.

Fifty Detained Fishermen Return From Burma

BK2310121990 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Yesterday, the Thai Embassy in Rangoon sent 50 Thai fishermen home via Thai Airways International flight TG306. The fishermen arrived at Bangkok International Airport at 1825. They had served as crewmen for four Thai fishing boats that were seized between January and February this year for fishing in Burmese waters. The Burmese Government sentenced these fishermen to between 7 months and 2 years imprisonment and fined each of them from 5,000 to 20,000 kyat.

This month the Foreign Ministry arranged to send home 98 Thai fishermen who served out their sentences in Burma. Forty-eight returned to Thailand on 5 October.

Vietnam

Radio Comments on Nguyen Co Thach's U.S. Trip

BK2310132690 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach on 17 October visited Washington as a guest of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Our commentator contributes the following opinion on the visit: This is the highest level Vietnamese Government delegation to have paid an official visit to Washington so far. A formal ceremony including motorcade accompany [as heard] was accorded in honor of the Vietnamese diplomatic chief in an event unprecedented in U.S.-Vietnamese relations. Later in the day, the Vietnamese foreign minister and American officials held talks at the U.S. Army and Labor Club in Washington, D.C.

The main purpose of Foreign Minister Thach's visit was his talks with John Vessey as special envoy of the U.S. President on the MIA issue. It was made known that the two sides reached a consensus on all questions under discussion, including an early start of the 12th and 13th joint searches and the formation of a new group of specialists of the two countries to step up the process of solving the MIA issue.

During the visit, Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach also met a number of American congressmen including Senator John McCain, Richard Lugar, and other American officials such as the deputy chairman of joint chief of staff, and special advisor of the U.S. President on national security K. Jackson, and others.

Through these contacts, members of the American political circles all put high value on Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach to Washington visit. It was agreed that the visit helped promote mutual understanding and sympathy. A BBC radio broadcast on 19 October pointed to the significance of the meeting between the Vietnamese foreign minister and American congressmen regarding the need to normalize U.S.-Vietnamese relations.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach's trip to Washington has created more conditions for an early settlement of the MIA issue. As well as inviting the Vietnamese foreign minister to Washington, the U.S. government has lifted the 25-mile restriction of movement on Vietnamese diplomats in New York. American public has described the visit to Washington by Mr. Thach as a breakthrough in U.S.- Vietnamese relations.

The NEW YORK TIMES remarked that this visit is an important step toward restoring diplomatic relations between the two countries. Obviously, the Vietnamese foreign minister to Washington visit is contributing to an early settlement of humanitarian issue in the interest of the Americans. It helps promote mutual sympathy and understanding on the way to a normalization of relations between the two countries, a process beneficial to both countries and in the interest of peace, stability in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.

EEC Agrees on 'Official Relations' With SRV

BK2310155890 Hanoi VNA in English 1519 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA October 23—The foreign ministerial conference of the 12 European Economic Community countries yesterday agreed to establish its official relations with Vietnam. This will be decided at an EEC summit scheduled to be held by the end of this month.

Foreign Minister Invites Kaifu To Visit Hanoi

BK2310154590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1208 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Tokyo, Oct 23 (AFP)—Vietmanese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach Tuesday gave Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu an unprecedented invitation from Vietnamese Prime Minister Do Muoi to visit Hanoi, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday.

The invitation was extended during a 20-minute previously unscheduled meeting between Mr. Kaifu and Mr. Thach, according to the officials. But they failed to say whether Mr. Kaifu accepted the invitation or not. They quoted Mr. Kaifu as telling Mr. Thach that Vietnam's efforts to achieve peace in Cambodia still served as a "gauge for improving ties between Japan and Vietnam."

The official said that Mr. Thach told Mr. Kaifu "as the situation in the world is vastly changing, the time has come for a strengthening of overall ties between the two countries."

Mr. Kaifu noted the importance of resolving the Cambodian conflict, saying "Vietnam's efforts in this regard serve as a path to strengthened Japanese-Vietnamese relations."

The officials also said that Mr. Thach highly appreciated Tokyo's hosting of a conference of Cambodia's warring parties in June, saying "Japan will be able to play an even greater role." The Vietnamese foreign minister expressed Hanoi's grave concern that the Khmer Rouge faction may return to power, they said. The Khmer Rouge, ousted by Hanoi in 1979 after a bloody four year rule of Cambodia, is the strongest of three factions fighting the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh.

Mr. Thach told Mr. Kaifu that cooperation between Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen and resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk is essential to prevent the Khmer Rouge from returning to power, the officials said.

Mr. Thach arrived in Tokyo on Monday for a six-day stay, the first official visit here here by a Vietnamese foreign minister since the unification of Vietnam in 1975, though he once came here in an unofficial capacity in 1984. Meanwhile, JIJI press said that Mr. Thach would meet Emperor Akihito at the imperial palace Wednesday.

Soviet Communist Party Delegation Visits

BK2310161290 Hanoi VNA in English 1516 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA October 23—A delegation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union led by L.V. Potapov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the party committee of the Buryat Republic, has visited Vietnam to inform the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee of the plenum of the CPSU Central Committee held on October 8-9.

On behalf of the CPV Central Committee, Hoang Bich Son, member of the party Central Committee, and head of its international department, heard the information. The delegation visited some economic and cultural establishments in Hanoi and Lang Son Province, which has relationship with the Buryat Republic.

On October 22, Dao Duy Tung, Politburo member and secretary of the CPV Central Committee, received the delegation. He asked the delegation to convey his thanks to the CPSU Central Committee for the above information and his wishes that the CPSU and people should successfully implement the resolution of the plenum.

Soviet Ambassador R.L. Khamidouline was present at the reception.

Do Muoi Receives Officials From UN Bodies

BK2310161890 Hanoi VNA in English 1522 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA October 23—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi received today a number of representatives of the United Nations bodies in Hanoi on the occasion of the United Nations Day (October 24).

His guests included David Smith, co-ordinator of the United Nations' activities in Vietnam and representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the World Food Program (WFP) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA); S.I. Zakhariev, representative of the Food and Agriculture Organizations (FAO); Tarique Farooqui, representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Mario Gonzalez, representative of the World Health Organization; Jacques Mouchet, representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); Mrs. Sonsoles Ruedas, assistant to the World Food Program (WFP); and Christan Brunner, representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Chairman Do Muoi affirmed Vietnam's stand to make an active contribution to the international community's efforts for noble targets, namely, peace, national independence, and development. He highly appreciated remarkable contributions made by international organizations to Vietnam's socioeconomic development. He expressed his satisfaction at Vietnam's cooperative ties with all bodies of the United Nations system and wished these ties further consolidation and development.

The guests thanked the Government of Vietnam and the chairman personally for their concern to strengthen the above-said ties and expressed their satisfaction at the achievements made by Vietnam during the current process of renovation, and reiterated their efforts to, together with the Vietnamese Government, effectively and qualitatively carry out all approved programs and projects.

Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan was present at the function.

More Foreign Investment Projects Licensed

BK2410090090 Hanoi VNA in English 0703 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA October 24—Eleven more foreign investment projects were licensed in September by the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment (SCCI). The initial capital for these projects totals $104.2 million. They have a total prescribed capital of $94.6 million to which the foreign side contributes $68 million. Five of the 11 new projects are in industry, two in transportation, and the rest in agriculture, fishery, tourism and construction. Worthy of note is the project invested by the Soviet Union in coffee planting and processing with a prescribed capital equivalent to $43 million. Since the promulgation of the foreign investement law in December 1987, the S.C.C.I. issued licenses to 193 projects with the total investment capital of $1,311 million, in which the foreign side contributes $822 million.

Major Case of Smuggling Discovered in Tay Ninh

BK2410085290 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Smuggling suppression squads from the central government and in Tay Ninh Province just discovered a major case of smuggling involving 1,500 cartons of foreign beers valued at 180 million dong.

From an investigation, it was revealed that a level-II corporation in Tan Chau District had colluded with border post 819 at Ca Mu in smuggling this quantity of contraband goods by three farm tractors into Vietnam from Mimot District of the Cambodian province of Kompong Cham through the Ca Mu border-crossing point.

After being detected by the local people, these cartons of beers, although hidden and scattered around the area of border defense post 819, were seized on the spot on the afternoon of 16 October.

The smuggling suppression squad of Tay Ninh Province and the inspection board of the border defense command are now jointly conducting an investigation to bring those behind the case to light, while dealing severely with the cadres and people involved.

Chairmen Meet To Review Campaign Implementation

BK2010093090 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Pursuant to a conference held by the Council of Ministers in early October to review the implementation of Decision 240-HDBT and Directive 278-HDBT on anticorruption and antismuggling in the ministries and central sectors, recently in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City Chairman Do Muoi and Vice Chairman Vo Van Kiet met with the people's committee chairmen and deputy secretaries of party committees of provinces and cities countrywide to review the implementation of these decisions in connection with the campaign to build the party in localities.

Opening the conference, Chairman Do Muoi analyzed the real economic situation in our country at present. Although some renovation successes have been obtained, the economic situation is still badly unbalanced in terms of materials, manpower, production infrastructures, investments in capital construction, consumer goods essential to the people's livelihood, import-export, international balance of payment, and budgetary revenues and expenses.

The complicated developments in the political and economic situation in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and the Gulf crisis have worsened our economic difficulties. Hostile forces continue to maintain their blockade and embargo against our country to weaken us so they can carry out their dark schemes. Against such a background, if we cannot overcome corruption, smuggling, and waste, the imbalances will be even more acute, the situation of socioeconomic activities, political security, social order, and public safety will become more complicated. As a result, all sectors and echelons must realize profoundly that the struggle against these evils is extremely significant in many aspects. It helps overcome the economic imbalances; stabilize and develop the economy; restore socioeconomic order; stabilize the people's livelihood; make the party and the state machinery healthy, strong and firm; restore the people's confidence in the leadership of the socialist party and state; mobilize all the people to uphold self-reliance and surmount all difficulties and ordeals; and frustrate all sabotage schemes by hostile forces so that we can stand firmly, continually develop our country, and proceed a step further toward strategic changes in the advance of the revolution in our country.

The conferees listened to the state inspector general report the results of implementing Decision 240-HDBT on the struggle against corruption, a representative of the special task committee report the situation of import and export control and antismuggling operations, and a representative of the Interior Ministry report the results of action dealing with corruption cases in the recent past.

Do Muoi Wants Greater Anti-Smuggling Efforts

BK2110143790 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] The struggle against bribery, embezzlement, and smuggling has been stepped up throughout Vietnam. Speaking at a conference in Hanoi under this theme, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi analyzed the real situation of the Vietnamese economy. He said that in spite of the initial achievements in the renovation, the Vietnamese economy remained imbalanced. The complicated development of the political and economic situations in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and the Gulf crisis have affected the Vietnamese economy. Meanwhile, hostile forces continue their embargo to weaken Vietnam in order to carry out their dark schemes. In such a situation, he added, bribery, embezzlement, and smuggling and wastefulness will aggravate the imbalanced economy.

He called on all localities to step up the struggle against embezzlement and smuggling.

Article Examines Island, Archipelago Defense

BK2110105990 Hanoi TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN in Vietnamese Aug-Sep 90 pp 45-50

[Article by Captain Nguyen Thanh Lieng: "Be Ready To Fight and Defend the Fatherland's Islands and Archipelagoes"]

[Text] Our country's coast is over 3,260 km long. Its continental shelves are large, broad and rich with natural resources. Its many gulfs, archipelagoes and thousand islands are of great economic and national defense significance, and are lying scattered from the North to the South. Such large archipelagoes as Phu Quoc, Truong Sa, and Hoang Sa are particularly important to national construction and defense. A long time ago, our forefathers already explored, discovered and exploited the resources in these sea zones and on these archipelagoes which are now step by step organized into economic and technical zones and population centers in order to protect and exploit the country's great resources in the years to come and subsequent decades.

Everyone knows that the Eastern sea zone is a very important strategic direction in the defense of Vietnam's territorial integrity. Many wars of aggression by reactionary and imperialist forces against our people have come from this direction. The threat of their blockades against our country from this sea direction has never been reduced. Penetrations to steal intelligence information, conduct sabotage, establish connections, and plant reactionary agents have also come from this Eastern sea zone. For this very reason, we must heighten vigilance and remain combat ready to firmly defend our territorial sovereignty over these islands, archipelagoes and continental shelves; to protect the peaceful labor of our people and our country for socialist construction; and to help maintain stability and peace in the Eastern sea zone.

Remaining combat ready to defend our islands and archipelagoes is the common duty of all our country and troops but it is first of all the duty of our armed forces and our people's army who are directly deployed to operate on all islands and archipelagoes and the related Eastern sea zone. These forces must remain constantly vigilant, watch out for and promptly detect the enemy schemes of attack, occupation and aggression, and promptly intercept and effectively counter all the offensive and piratic blows of the enemy. This is the key political task of cadres and combatants on islands and archipelagoes of the country at a time when operations to encroach upon our territorial waters and Vietnam's sovereignty continually occur, threatening to break out into armed conflicts in this sea zone. In order to constantly preserve and keep our initiative and avoid a surprise attack by the enemy, all armed forces must constantly uphold their vigilance, detect the enemy's offensive scheme early on, and deal timely and effective counterblows at the enemy adventurers. Vigilance and combat preparedness must become a permanent concept among all cadres and combatants directly assigned to perform their duty on islands and archipelagoes. This concept must be not only inculcated deeply into their minds but also manifested by concrete acts of each cadre and combatant in the organization of reconnaissance, followup and pursuing operations in order to accurately detect the enemy plots and acts. Each cadre and combatant must also firmly grasp all its cruel schemes and maneuvers, closely control the sea zone and islands, develop step-by-step the mastery of units in charge over the sea zone and islands, and avoid being tricked by the enemy plots. At the same time, units and armed services must initiate timely and accurate reports on the situation to higher echelons, keep reinforcements on islands, in seas and on mainland well-informed, and closely cooperate with them to launch counter offensive and counterattacks to eradicate the enemies should they ever recklessly attack, occupy, and invade our islands. All manifestations of subjectivism, indifference, and lack of vigilance are dangerous enemies and might cause unpredictable consequences. As a result, cadres and combatants on islands and archipelagoes must really be imbued with a sense of vigilance and combat preparedness to truly become the guards of the seas and sky, manning the country's forward listening posts.

Vigilance and combat readiness must also be fully reflected through the building of a combat alert system in sea areas and on islands and archipelagoes. This combat alert system must help provide everyone with accurate and timely information about the enemy's schemes and maneuvers. In this way, there will exist conditions for troop deployment on each island and each archipelago, as well as combat coordination between the various forces to be properly carried out according to set combat plans. This means that there must be a permanent force on each island, group of islands, and archipelago to observe and discover any suspected movements on the seas. To this end, one must firmly maintain additional duty, alert, command, inspection, and commo-liaison units to keep everyone informed of unexpected developments, as well as file reports on the general situations on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. These units must have sufficient communications equipment, long-range visual instruments, and other mobile facilities so they can mount guard and conduct sea patrol.

If the enemy recklessly mounts "nibbling" attacks, the armed forces on each island, group of islands, and archipelago must promptly open fire to effectively intercept and counterattack his troops, determined not to let them approach our islands, coral corridors, and reefs. If the enemy stages large-scale attacks, we must make use of all means on hand to counterattack him, must achieve close combat coordination between the various islands and groups of islands to resolutely wipe out his fire support systems and prevent his troops from landing on our islands and reefs, and must also firmly maintain our combat positions. At the same time, we must promptly dispatch alert signals to other islands to ask for reinforcements. In this way, we can achieve combat coordination to smash the enemy's encroachment attempts.

Secondly, it is necessary to build and firmly consolidate the defense networks on islands and archipelagoes. This is a particularly important task because it affects the survival of islands and archipelagoes and creates a firm basis for defending our combat positions and exterminating the enemy. The building and consolidation of these defense networks must be carried out uniformly and must cover many aspects, from fortifications, fire support systems, and barricades to troop deployment, combat plans, training arrangements, rear services, technical support, and so forth. Actually, we have made substantial investment in terms of manpower and material resources to build our defense networks on islands and archipelagoes. Many islands of the Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago have been given a priority supply of building materials and additional equipment, weapons, and other means to enhance their defense and combat readiness systems. Nonetheless, in order to secure an aggregate strength to meet the requirements of the current situation, efforts are needed to build and consolidate combat trenches, to effect troop deployment in such a way that it is both compact and highly effective, and to organize training activities according the specific combat plans of each island, group of islands, and archipelago.

The network of fortifications and barricades must be made to last and to effectively protect our troops from the different kinds of splinters from the enemy's artillery shells. Fortifications and various kinds of underground shelters and underground ammunition, water, and food supply storage facilities must be strongly constructed in accordance with the motto that "every project completed is sure to bring about fine results." As far as the construction of fortifications on islands is concerned, it is necessary to take into consideration the erosion factor and the combat plans of each island, group of islands, and archipelago. Regarding the fortifications around fire support systems, it is important to build main and auxiliary networks in order to ensure mobility for fire support units. We must resolutely avoid indiscriminate, patchy, or temporary construction work because this does not guarantee durability but only leads to a waste of materials and manpower.

Regarding combat trenches and fire support networks, it is necessary to see to it that they are built in combination with both natural and man-made fortifications and lie within the ranges of the various types of fire support systems. In this way, there will exist conditions for our troops to achieve mutual support through a closely woven network of combat trenches, fortifications, and barricades. Because explosive-based barricades are easily damaged by sea water, they should be put up in case of indispensable necessity only to guarantee high reliability and explosibility. Natural barricades must be strengthened and built in combination with non-explosive barricades so that altogether they will create a combined network of barricades to withstand and reduce the intensity of the enemy's offensive spearheads.

Organizing forces on an island or on archipelagoes should not follow any uniform pattern or model. Instead, the forces should have the characteristics of a combat mission to suit combat plans and terrain. This is to ensure that units possess continuous and long-term combat capability under all situations, be they enemy encirclement, blockade, or isolation. To achieve this, it is necessary to conduct surveys and to study the combat-readiness potential of each island and archipelago in order to come up with the best plan. As for distant islands where there is a scarcity of fresh water, we must study the number of personnel, weapons and logistics needed for combat. For islands near the mainland where self-defense militia activities are widespread and potential reinforcement speedy, we also need to organize standby forces capable of defending the islands. When attacked by the enemy, troops stationed on these islands must be able to pin down and push the enemy back until reinforcements arrive.

In defending the islands, we must also organize a transport and a mobile standby combat force capable of promptly providing reinforcements to the islands and meeting combat needs under all circumstances. This is a very important and decisive combat force necessary for tipping the balance in the favor of combat garrison units on the islands concerned. This force must be placed under the centralized and unified leadership of the Ministry [of National Defense] and must be part of the defense strategy of the islands and continental shelves of the fatherland. However, we must also clearly define the very important role of the People's Naval Force, which is directly in charge of this vital task. Therefore, combat coordination between the units must be part of a general plan and must be organized in accordance with a unified decision under the direct leadership of each naval region or of the Ministry [of National Defense].

To improve the combat readiness and defense of the islands, it is necessary to train the people's armed forces. Political education and military training for every garrison detachment must be carried out in accordance with combat plans, suit existing technical equipment, and be practical. On large islands where training conditions permit, it is necessary to fulfill all the plans and instructions of higher echelons. Where small islands and coral rifts are concerned, training on technical subjects must be satisfactory and technical and strategic qualities of equipment must be brought into play. Facts show that many archipelogo detachments have been satisfactorily trained on basic technical and tactical skills. An inspection found this training to be fair and good. It is necessary to improve these results and to perfect those skills to meet the ever-growing requirements of combat readiness.

A pressing problem now is how to improve the cadres' knowledge of the archipelagoes. This is one of the key points of combat-readiness training and unit building for island troops, especially for those on distant and isolated ones. Cadres stationed on a number of islands, however, have not been satisfactorily trained. This is why there are many cadres who do not have any sense of organization, leadership, and training skills. Responsible echelons and organs must, therefore, pay more attention to training. It is necessary to train cadres on organizational and management methods, self-motivation, creativity, and decision-making in making them unit commanders. In addition, it is also necessary to teach them navigation law and international relations so they can handle various problems quickly and smoothly in accordance with the international law of the sea.

While carrying out training activities on various islands and groups of islands, we must pay attention to building determination and a sense of responsibility among cadres and combatants, trying to make them truly regard "islands as their houses and the sea as their homeland." Their determination and sense of responsibility toward islands must be translated into concrete actions such as heightening vigilance, enthusiastically undergoing combat-readiness training, paying attention to building comprehensively steadfast islands, and satisfactorily maintaining and thriftily using weapons and equipment of all sorts. Cadres and combatants must really attach themselves to their islands, resolutely build their islands, promote solidarity and mutual love and assistance, and unite higher echelons with lower echelons into a unified bloc in order to generate a tremendous, integrated strength capable of satisfactorily and successfully fulfilling their combat and combat-readiness tasks. It is necessary to resolutely oppose the feelings of temporariness and dependence and the longing for an early end to their tour of duty on their islands. We must restrict transfer of cadres from one island to another and avoid sending unqualified replenishments to various islands on the grounds that they are being sent there to "forge themselves in various ordeals." Such a move will advsersely affect the quality of combat readiness and unit-building on various islands and groups of islands.

Third, it is necessary to build impregnable mutual-support defense systems between islands themselves, between islands and the mainland, and between sea areas and the airspace [as published]. This is the most essential and decisive element in the defense of the territorial sovereignty of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the Eastern Sea. This is also the basis for creating an integrated strength to defeat the enemy's land-grabbing and aggressive adventures on whatever scale. The impregnable mutual-support defense systems must be created by organizing close coordination between various armed services and combat branches on the one side and the local armed forces within provincial and district defense areas concerned on the other. If this is done, the enemy can hardly materialize their schemes, no matter how sophisticated and crafty their tricks may be.

Building impregnable mutual-support defense systems in the Eastern Sea is a very difficult and complicated task. This is because our country has a long coastline and thousands of islands with many of them located hundreds of nautical miles from the mainland. Therefore, the first, most important thing for us to do is ensure close coordination between various islands and to set up defensive systems with mutual-support capabilitity for annihilating the enemy and defending the islands. To attack one of our islands or group of islands, the enemy aggressors must move from a line of departure to an assembly point before they can deploy their troops for the attack. If we can detect the enemy's intentions, our men on each island or each group of islands will hit the enemy's combat formation from their flank or from their rear, forcing them to split their force to cope with our attack and thus making it impossible for them to materialize their initial intentions. The 14 March 1988 battle to defend the Collins Island in the Sinh Ton group of islands shows good combat coordination and mutual support between various islands. Therefore, it is necessary to maintain close coordination between various islands themselves in each given area and each group of islands in order to create mutual-support defense systems capable of providing protection for one another. To achieve this aim, it is necessary to satisfactorily organize the system of command and signal communications in order to promptly warn one another against the enemy's adventurous activities.

Ground reinforcement forces play a particularly important role in defending islands and archipelagoes and in safeguarding the fatherland's sovereignty over the territorial waters in the Eastern Sea. The combat coordination between ground reinforcement forces and island and archipelago defense forces will promptly create conditions for us to launch counterattacks to exterminate the enemy and smash his offensive spearheads. As part of the combat alert system, the ground reinforcement forces not only provide effective support for the forward forces so the latter can firmly protect the fatherland's sovereignty over the territorial waters but they also serve as a bridge linking the rear base and the frontline. Therefore, the combat readiness ground reinforcement forces must be adequately organized and equipped with highly mobile facilities and must also be stationed in favorable areas so they can respond to combat requirements and handle other situations as quickly as possible. Upon reception of alert signals and distress calls, these forces must act in accordance with higher echelons' orders and report themselves to the hot points in the shortest time possible in order to provide combat support where needed and to perform other rescue missions. To this end, there must be regular training arrangements and close combat coordination exercises for the island defense forces and ground reinforcement forces so they all can constantly improve their fighting methods in accordance with present combat plans.

As far as the combat coordination between naval and combat-readiness ground reinforcement forces is concerned, it is important for the Navy and the Air Force to achieve close coordination and to cover an extensive battlefield scenario in order to promptly provide combat support for remote island defense forces. Our Navy and Air Force have not yet acquired modern equipment available in the armed forces of advanced countries. Nonetheless, our islands and archipelagoes all lie within the coverage areas of our Navy and Air Force. Moreover, we have gained experiences from our great national liberation struggle. Particularly, the fight from 5-13 June 1975 to liberate Poulo Wai Island constitutes a valuable lesson about the combat coordination between our armed services and armed branches. Our Air Force alone has learned many valuable lessons from its sea combat missions during the anti-U.S. national salvation war of resistance. The value of those experiences still remains intact, considering the need for everyone to stand ready for combat in order to defend the fatherland. By satisfactorily developing and applying those combat experiences to the present conditions, we will be able to fully develop our strength and create a firm, closely woven battleground to defeat all of the enemy's reckless attempts to mount attacks from the seas, thus contributing to effectively defending the Vietnamese socialist fatherland.

Paper Receives Ho Chi Minh Order From General

BK2310051390 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] A ceremony was held in Hanoi last weekend by the army newspaper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN to mark its 40th founding anniversary and to receive the Ho Chi Minh Order, the highest distinction conferred by the State Council.

Speaking at the function, General (Phan Khac Thai), general director of the army newspaper, noted that over the past 40 years with about 20,000 issues, the army newspaper has been constantly improved both in its contents and forms, proving worthy of the voice of the Vietnamese armed forces and people. He added that during different historical stages of the nation, the army newspaper is always a close and reliable friend of the entire army and people.

General Le Duc Anh, minister of defense, presented the order and had a talk with cadres and workers of the army newspaper. He called called on them to uphold their tradition in order to fulfill the tasks in the present revolutionary period.

Satellite Signal Receiver Successfully Tested

BK2210144190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] In early October, in cooperation with the Phu Yen Province Electronics Enterprise, the Quang Ngai radio and television station completed assembling a satellite signal receiver named Satellite Surveyor. The receiver was successfully test run on the afternoon of 4 October. All test results indicate that the quality of direct television reception through the receiver has met the requirements.

Typhoon Damage Reported in Thua Thien-Hue

BK2310090790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] According to the central flood and typhoon control committee's report, as a result of a tropical low depression and Typhoon No. 8, there were torrential rains in Thua Thien-Hue province recently. The average rainfall was between 300 and 700 millimeters.

Heavy rains submerged 110 of the 145 villages and more than 110,000 houses, killed seven people, dampened over 5,500 metric tons of paddy and 160 metric tons of cement, and swept away 123 buffalo and cattle. Also as a result of heavy rains, the (La Vi) pass was partly cut into many sections; route 12-B to A Luoi District was cut off completely; one kilometer of the road at Phong Son village was washed away; a ferry boat was carried away by water; and three kilometers of railroad and almost all drainage, small water conservancy, and dike systems were damaged.

Cadres and the people of Thua Thien-Hue are now concentrating efforts on overcoming the consequences of floods and typhoons to quickly stabilize production and life.

Australia

Mandela Continues Visit, Comments on Sanctions

BK2310105390 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 23 Oct 90

[From the program "International Report"]

[Excerpt] In Canberra, the deputy president of the African National Congress [ANC], Nelson Mandela, has emphatically urged Australia to maintain sanctions against South Africa. After comments by the prime minister, Bob Hawke, were interpreted as softening of Australia's position on sporting boycott, the issue has dominated media coverage of Mr. Mandela's visit. Radio Australia's diplomatic correspondent, Stewart Heather, reports that Nelson Mandela's statement should end speculation about the relaxation of boycott.

[Begin recording] [Heather] From the event of Nelson Mandela's arrival in Australia, it seems to some commentators that Bob Hawke suggested sporting sanctions could be lifted quite soon—as soon as the processes of dismantling apartheid were irreversible—and Mr. Hawke said that stage is aproaching. But Mr. Hawke's Labor government is proud of its strong policies on sanctions, and the prime minister reminded the audience at Mr. Mandela's official welcome at Parliament House.

[Hawke] Australia has not simply applied these measures. We have been among the foremost advocates of them in the international community, and we have been a leader in their international acceptance and application.

[Heather] However, Mr. Hawke also said that sanctions would inflict unnecessary pain if they were applied for too long.

[Hawke] Sanctions must be lifted not a moment too soon, and not a moment too late. And following my discussions with you today, Nelson, I am pleased that I will have the benefit of your wisdom and foresight as well as that of Commonwealth and other international leaders in making our decision about the right time to lift sanctions.

[Heather] So what was the advice Nelson Mandela gave Bob Hawke on sanctions? The ANC made it clear to his Parliament House audience.

[Mandela] (?We both adopt) the effect of economic sanctions had played a major role in pressuring the apartheid government in the direction of a peaceful and negotiated settlement (?toward) the South African conflict. We are optimistic that, with the maintenance of economic sanctions, we will hasten the achievement of freedom [in] South Africa. We have yearned and fought for so long and sacrificed so much.

[Heather] Perhaps aware of publicity before he arrived, Mr. Mandela made special reference to sporting boycotts and he gave this unequivocal plea.

[Mandela] It would be a (?serious ommission) for us to ignore your consistent and significant contribution to culture and sports boycott. Specifically, you have upheld and implemented the Gleneagles Agreement and effectively isolated apartheid sports. This campaign must be maintained. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rejects Hawke's Recommendation

MB2310175490 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] The deputy president of the ANC [African National Congress], Mr. Nelson Mandela, has rejected a recommendation by the Australian prime minister, Mr. Bob Hawke, that the ANC should drop its commitment to nationalization of the South African economy.

Speaking at a banquet in Mr. Mandela's honor in Canberra, Mr. Hawke suggested that the ANC was wedded to outmoded policies.

Mr. Mandela, who is on a three-day visit to Australia, said at a news conference after the banquet that nationalization was the best way he knew to eliminate South Africa's economic inequalities and distribute its wealth equitably.

Mr. Mandela stormed out of a radio studio in Canberra today after an interviewer unexpectedly allowed the Kwazulu chief minister, Dr. Mangosuthu Buthelezi, to take part in the discussion in a telephone link-up with South Africa. Mr. Mandela said that he had not been told that Dr. Buthelezi would be taking part in the program. When the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's interviewer asked Mr. Mandela whether he was interested in hearing Dr. Buthelezi's views on steps to end the violence in black towns, Mr. Mandela replied that he was not.

At the weekend the national executive of the ANC announced that a meeting between Dr. Buthelezi and Mr. Mandela was imminent. The ANC said it believed that a meeting between the two leaders could help end the violence.

Angers Aboriginal Leaders

MB2410062290 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0613 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 24 SAPA—The deputy president of the African National Congress, Mr. Nelson Mandela, has angered Australian Aboriginal leaders who want him to be more forthright on the issue of discrimination, SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio reported on Wednesday.

Mr. Mandela spent most of his first day in Australia talking to government leaders about the need to continue economic and sporting sanctions against South Africa until all South Africans have equal voting rights.

The aboriginal leaders expressed anger at his refusal to comment on their complaints of discrimination and poor living conditions. They said that if he remained silent about their conditions the rest of the world would believe they had nothing to complain about.

Mr. Mandela said there were two reasons for his silence. Firstly, he did not want to interfere in the internal affairs of another country and secondly, the aborigines differed from Africans because they had a vote and because they had political organisations which were not banned.

Mr. Mandela is in Australia as part of a worldwide fundraising campaign for the African National Congress.

Speaks at Sidney Opera House

MB2410074390 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0700 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] ANC [African National Congress] deputy president, Nelson Mandela, has been greeted by a massive crowd at the Sidney Opera House. Details from Zayed Kachalia.

[Begin Kachalia recording] The sun came out for Mr. Mandela, and Sidney people packed the Opera House to get a glimpse of their political hero. He was presented with the key to the city of Sidney which was (?granted) to him four years ago but was only handed to him today.

During his speech Mandela said the march towards a democratic country would hardly be stopped at the country's [word indistinct] he said if the changes now taking place are reversed South Africa would be on fire again.

Mandela also pointed a finger squarely at military intelligence and the National Intelligence Service for orchestrating the recent bloody township violence and train attacks. Certain elements in the security forces, he said, were resisting those changes. [end recording]

Defense Minister Announces Exercise for 1992

BK2310082890 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Australia's defense minister, Senator Robert Ray, has announced a sequel to last year's Kangaroo '89 exercise, which was Australia's largest peacetime defense mobilization.

However, the next exercise in 1992 will be smaller than Kangaroo '89. Last year's exercise spread across a wide area of northern Australia, but Senator Ray said that Kangaroo '92 will focus on a smaller part of the region. It will be held during the tropical wet season to provide troops with experience of the climatic difficulties. The American army infantry battalion task force is expected to join Australian regular and reserve forces from all three services in the exercise.

New Zealand

Review of Australian Frigate Deal Planned

BK2410020990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0155 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Wellington, Oct 24 (AFP)—New Zealand Prime Minister Mike Moore said Wednesday the government would review its multi-million dollar contract to buy Australian-built frigates. The announcement just ahead of the October 27 general election came as a bombshell and is likely to send relations with Australia into a tailspin.

The frigates are currently being built. New Zealand last November signed a contract to buy two for 942 million New Zealand dollars (565 million U.S) and has options on two more.

Mr. Moore said New Zealand had a serious unemployment problem and controlling the government's deficit had been "dramatically aggravated by the crisis in the Middle East and falls in prices for our commodity exports. "Every item of government expenditure has to be examined in the light of this new reality," he said in a statement. "Frigates are a big-ticket item."

Mr. Moore is facing a projected budget deficit next year of up to three billion dollars (1.8 billion U.S.). "If there is to be a cut in government spending and the choice is education for the children, hospitals for the sick and taking care of the elderly—or postponing, or cancelling, the frigate project then I know where I stand," he said. He said he was calling for a treasury report on the implications of cancelling, postponing or going ahead with the frigate programme.

Mr. Moore said he had advised the Australian Government of his decision and wanted to talk to Prime Minister Bob Hawke within the next two weeks. "The matter has been under discussion since I became prime minister," he said.

The decision to buy the frigates came after two years of bitter debate and was politically unpopular for the Labour government.

It was widely believed here that then Australian Defence Minister Kim Beazley had threatened that if the deal did not go ahead, Australia would not enter into a closer economic relations treaty with New Zealand.

The Australians are building eight frigates for themselves, and one of the main selling points was that the two countries should have warships and weapons systems which are compatible.

Cancelling the programme could be a politically smart move for Labour, which is lagging about 10 per cent behind in the polls. They have tried, unsuccessfully, to raise the peace issue which played a key role in getting them elected in the last two polls. The opposition National Party has said it favours the frigates and it may find itself in the embarrassing position of having to justify a decision of their political rivals.

The Australian Government said it would be "inappropriate" to comment on Mr. Moore's statement before the New Zealand election.

The Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs in Canberra issued almost identical statements saying "if it is still an issue next week, we shall take it up then with New Zealand."

The Meko-200 class frigates, designed in Germany, are being built by Australian Marine Engineering Consolidated (AMECON) in the state of Victoria. Amecon represents the Transfield Group, which has links with Kumagai Gumi of Japan, Blohm and Voss of Germany and Cable Price Downer of New Zealand.

Before the contract was awarded to AMECON in August last year, Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke warned the New Zealand Government that a decision not to enter the deal would affect defence ties between the two countries. Mr. Beazley then suggested that Australia buy all 12 frigates and lease four of them to New Zealand to replace its four aging Leander class frigates.

TV Poll Shows Labor Party 'Closing In'

BK2310084290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0648 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Wellington, Oct 23 (AFP)—New Zealand's ruling Labour Party is closing in on the opposition National Party four days out from general elections here, a Television New Zealand [TVNZ] poll released Tuesday showed.

The poll of 900 people taken last weekend showed that 28 per cent were still undecided, down five points from the same poll a fortnight ago. Of those who had decided 49 per cent said they would vote National, down one point, and 37 per cent would vote Labour, up three points. The Greens polled seven per cent, down two points.

TVNZ said that when the undecideds were pressed further it showed Labour picking up. After being questioned further undecideds fell to 14 per cent, and of the rest 46 per cent would vote National and 39 per cent Labour.

Elections are on October 27.

In the preferred prime minister poll, Prime Minister Mike Moore improved three points to 21 per cent while opposition leader Jim Bolger, on 13 per cent, had fallen behind popular opposition backbencher Winston Peters on 15 per cent. TVNZ said Mr. Bolger had suffered in the polls because of the way he criticised a heckler's mother last week and for his claim that leading trade unionist Ken Douglas was a communist.

The poll had an error rate of plus or minus three per cent.

Niue

Prime Minister Survives No-Confidence Motion

BK2410084690 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Niue's 82-year-old premier, Sir Robert Rex, and his three-man cabinet have survived a motion of no-confidence. The move to dump Sir Robert and his cabinet was led by former minister, Mr. Frank Lui. However, Mr. Lui was unable to gain majority support in the island assembly and the motion was defeated by 15 votes to five.

Mr. Lui and Mr. (Lakatani) were sacked from the Cabinet by Sir Robert Rex last month after reportedly uncovering an imminent leadership challenge.

Sir Robert has been premier of Niue [words indistinct] in 1974. [words indistinct] called general elections to unseat Sir Robert.

Solomon Islands

No-Confidence Motion Against Premier Blocked

BK2410144290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1318 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Honiara, Oct 24 (AFP)—Solomon Islands parliamentary Speaker Waeta Ben Wednesday blocked a no-confidence motion in Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni, the latest bid by the opposition to oust the besieged leader. Mr. Ben said that he could not accept the motion because according to standing orders parliament "cannot reconsider a specific question on which it has taken a decision during a current or preceding two meetings of the house."

Another motion of no-confidence against Mr. Mamaloni was moved earlier this year.

Mr. Mamaloni recently triggered a political crisis here when he defected from the ruling People's Alliance Party (PAP) and formed a government with five opposition members. The prime minister's decision to quit as PAP leader came a week before a party convention was tipped to pass a no-confidence motion in him. The motion arose from the reported involvement of Mr. Mamaloni and others in efforts to obtain a 250 million U.S. dollar loan from an obscure Italian company.

Mr. Ben also rejected a motion from Mr. Nori to overturn the standing orders blocking the no-confidence motion. The speaker said he could only suspend standing orders if it involved a trivial matter which unexpectedly interrupted the proceedings of parliament. The proposed motion of no-confidence in the prime minister had substantial implications, he said.